MORPRI



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FRIDAY 19 JANUARY 1996 Paris awaits the plumber's son

PM rebuts leadership rumours Shaky Major bows to right over Europe

DONALD MACINTYRE

John Major yesterday unexpectedly bowed to Eurosceptic pressure by ordering a White Paper on Europe as he and party managers moved ur-gently to defuse a fresh bout of speculation about his leadership.

In a move which took senior Tories by surprise, Mr Major ignored calls from the Tory left not to risk re-opening the debate on Europe by publishing a White Paper. Instead, the Cabinet accepted Mr Major's recommendation to publish one before the intergovernmental conference on the EU's future begins on 29 March.

The White Paper was announced as Mr Major dismissed as "silly speculation" a fresh spate of reports suggesting that he could face a plot to unseat him after the wholesale losses - of up to 800 out of over 1,000 contested council seats - which the party fears in the May local elections.

While opinion differed sharply among senior oppo-nents of Mr Major over whether such a challenge was feasible let alone capable of success - Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, took the highly unusual step of issuing a statement saying the reports were

ludictous The Prime Minister yesterday visited the Commons tea-room after telling MPs in the Chamber: "We have have this silly speculation almost every week there's a Thursday in. It's been nonsense in the past and it's nonsense now." According to one MP who spoke to him in the tea-room, Mr Major suggested that he knew who had planted the story and implied that it was a figure in the Lords rather than

the Commons. As the former Tory chairman Sir Norman Fowler also rejected the reports but acknowledged that there was a "maverick minority" who might want to unseat Mr Major, it emerged that senior members



John Major: Talk of a plot is just 'silly speculation'

of the Tory parliamentary party are determined to resist aspirations by constituency parties to be given a formal voice in choosing future party

The issue has taken on a new importance because of signs that the executive of the 1922 committee are reluctant to decide radical changes to the leader-ship rules which could constitutionally preclude a further leadership challenge to Mr Major before the general election.

Lord Feldman, chairman of the party's National Union - the Tory voluntary wing - has floated the idea (at a meeting last

Surprise cut in interest rates

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, came to the rescue of a beleaguered John Major with a cut in interest rates that caught the City napping. The quarter point reduction to 6.25 per cent pushed rates down to their lowest for more than a year, but failed to trigger further cuts in

mortgage rates. The stock market leapt on the news, with the FTSE index of 100 top companies jumping by 44.5 points to a record high of 3,748.7. The City is now betting on a further quarter point cut by March.

1922 committee) that the constituency party membership who have expressed solid sup-port for Mr Major in the most recent soundings taken during the party's consultation exercise

- should have formal say. But one senior backbench fig-ure on the right of the party said that MPs would resist any attempt to dilute their exclusive rights to pick the party leader and added: "That's why we are resisting a wide-ranging review of the rules which could open that whole issue up."

But amid a warm welcome for the one-quarter of a per cent fall in interest rates - and among the right at least for the White Paper announcement a series of senior party figures queued up to dismiss sugges-tions that Mr Major would be forced out in the wake of the elections - much less walk out voluntarily having successfully gambled his leadership last summer.

The promised White Paper. Whitehall sources emphasised, would not lay out the final negotiating position of Mr Major's government during the IGC. which opens in Turin in March, though it will rehearse positions already made public - such as the government's outright opposition to any extension of qualified majority voting in the

A Foreign Office statement said: "While the White Paper cannot be a detailed negotiating document, it will draw together the various policy statements that have been made by the Government and will indicate the Government's general objectives."

It nevertheless raises the possibility of another difficult Commons vote if Labour seeks to amend the normal take note motion when the white Paper is published. Several left-ofcentre MPs wrote privately to Mr Major over the last few weeks strongly urging him not to have a White Paper.



Yeltsin warns of Chechen war

PHIL REFVES Pervomayskoye HUGH POPE

After pulverising the village of Pervomayskoye, and the Chechen rebels and their hostages holed up there, for four days Boris Yeltsin last night threatened a new assault against the Chechen leader. Dzokhar Dudayev.

The end of the assault on the village left large questions unanswered - over the death toll, the conduct of the Russian forces, and over the fate of 200 people still held hostage by Chechen sympathisers on a ship in the

Mr Yeltsin said he would now take the initiative against Mr Dudayev, apparently threatening a resumption of the bloody civil war which cost both sides heavily last year. "We have taught Dudayev a

JUST DON'T

strongholds where there are no civilians in order to do away with terrorism on Russian soil,"

Mr Yeltsin stunned independent observers by claiming that 82 of the Chechens' sound lesson and we now need hostages had emerged safely -

a figure that seemed astonishingly high given the intensity of the Russian bombardment.

It also directly contradicts claims by senior military officials earlier this week that most of the hostages had been mur-

dered by the kidnappers.

Mr Yeltsin's version of events has already been challenged in Russia, despite stringent efforts to prevent reporters gaining access to the battle.

A report in Izvestia newspaper said yesterday that the attack had been reckless and disorganised. "To call this an operation to save hostages is, to say the least, cynical," wrote Investia's correspondent, Valery Yakov, who spent three days

near the battle zone. The Russian interior ministry said the bodies of 153 Chechen rebels had been found in the village, and that 28 rebels had also been captured - though their leader, Salman Raduyev, may that 26 Russian servicemen had also died.

The other Chechen drama was still unresolved last night, with a hijacked ferry carrying 200 hostages nearing Istanbul. The Airasya ferry, which was seized by supporters of Chechen rebels fighting for in-

dependence from Russia, was about 120 miles east of the city last night, but the Turkish government has refused to allow the gunmen into the Bosporus. The ferry, laden with explo-

sives, could reach the city eartoday. The gunmen have threatened to blow up the ship unless Russian forces halt attacks on Chechen rebels. Film from on board the ship

showed the hijackers looking tired and nervous but deter-

They were dressed like pirates in baggy coats and woolly halaclava hats, with grenades on their jackets, pistols and knives in their belts and all kinds of weapons in their hands, including rifles and big pump-ac-

tion shotguns.
"Allah-u-akbar!" (God is Great) they repeatedly cheered as the camera panned out to show a Turkish frigate shadowing them and flags from the Caucasus run up the mast, including the green-and-white striped banner of the Chechen

independence movement.
Guns fall silent, page 12

DTI called in after 'insider deals' probe

The London Stock Exchange last night announced that it had passed the findings of an investigation into dealings in the shares of Caradon, the building products group, to the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry.

A four-line statement from the Exchange, whose chairman is John Kemp-Welch, said that it had concluded an investigation into dealings in the shares of Caradon ahead of an announcement by the company on 11 September last year relating to its interim results. News of the Stock Exchange investigation was first revealed earlier this month in the Independent.

made a public announcement that it was investigating allega-tions of improper share-dealing was in August 1994 when it con-firmed that it had passed on information to the DTI about share dealings in Anglia television ahead of a takeover bid.

The decision was taken after new information on the dealings came to light in the past couple of weeks. It comes as two analysts at Robert Fleming, the investment bank, who have been at the centre of questioning, have quit their posts. Derek Reed and Martin Murch were said to be no longer employees of the company yesterday, al-though they are believed to

The last time the Exchange have been offered consultancy adde a public announcement work by the bank. The DTI will decide whether to appoint in-spectors to investigate the case.

The Exchange investigations team has been trying to ascertain whether anyone at Robert Fleming received, and made improper use of, privileged information. Heavy trading on the Friday before the results were due first attracted the attention of the regulators. Caradon was the market's most heavily traded stock, with 26 million shares changing hands at about 210p each in the late afternoon.

The likelihood that there had been had been a leak was strengthened when reports that Caradon would unveil disap-

pointing figures appeared in two Sunday newspapers. Caradon brought forward its results and issued a profits warning on the Monday, leading some brokers to downgrade their forecasts.

The Exchange has been considering suggestions of a relationship between Robert Fleming and Financial Dynamics, Caradon's public relations firm and one of the largest in the City. Financial Dynamics' chairman Tony Knox is known to be friends with the two former Robert Fleming analysis. Mr Knox has declined to make any comment on the affair although friends of Mr Knox have said that there is no ques-

any inside information. Mr Knox could not be contacted yesterday for comment.

Yesterday Nick Miles, the chief executive of Financial Dynamcis, said he welcomed the official announcement of the inquiry.

"This will give us the chance to clear our name and get on with our business.

Mr Miles said his firm had twice contacted the exchange to ask if it could be of any assistance to its investigation. "They told us that they had no need to see us," he said.

Mr Miles added that there was no question of anybody at his firm passing on inside in-formation about Caradon.



John Kemp-Welch: London

IN BRIEF

Meningitis breakthrough Doctors in Glasgow have made an important breakthrough in treating the most severe form of meningitis which can kill in just a few hours.

Howard in chains U-turn Michael Howard was yesterday forced into an embarrassing U-turn over the shackling of pregnant women prisoners in

Today's weather Grey and misty but generally Section Two, page 33

Anti-porn device nets a £30m fortune

tion of him having passed them

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Three Britons whose company

developed computer software to prevent children downloading pornography or other undesirable material from the Internet became multi-millionaires vesterday when they sold their invention to the the US. Entrepreneur John Kimber-

ley, 48. marketing specialist Pe-

ter Simpkin, 44, and Richard

Whitehead, 48, a programming

expert, have been paid £30m by

an American computer com-

can be used equally by companies, schools, or individuals.

firms are the latest glamour

stock, with financiers willing to

The story of their company Firefox, based in Solihull, near Birmingham -is one of several get-rich-quick tales about the in-dustry. UK companies are flocking to the US where hi-tech

on young companies. Not like in the UK, where the City only

takes notice after you have been around for 10 years, or so." Firefox, which employs 100 people, was floated on the Nasdaq exchange in May with a val-ue of \$100m (£66m). It raised \$20m for the original backers, with Mr Kimberley getting \$3m.

pany – realising a phenomenal return on their original invest—with no track record.

The software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and market, and are willing to take the software that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions on use of the Internet and the software package that they developed puts restrictions the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that they developed puts restrictions to the software package that the software pac yesterday with California-based FIP Software converted that into about £15m. All three founders

take up senior posts at FTP. Firefox is not the first hi-tech company to hit the big time on the US stock market, but it is still a long way off the heights achieved by the US company Net-scape. Floated last August annual turnover. The chairman's



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BUSINESS 20-22 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16 LAW REPORT 16 LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS 2-15 OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24



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Howard unchains pregnant prisoners

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was yesterday forced into an embarrassing U-turn over the shackling of pregnant women prisoners in hospital but he refused to apologise to those who have been chained in

Only days after ministers were publicly defending the controversial policy. Mr Howard announced that no pregnant women should be held in chains once she enters

a maternity unit - whether for Commons by the Prisons Min-an ante-natal checks or in ister, Ann Widdecombe, for iabout.

Prisoners attending hospitals for other reasons would "generally" continue to be restrained, he said, unless the governor decides they are unnecessary following a thorough risk assessment.

The retreat followed a sustained barrage of criticism from health, maternity and human rights groups over the "degrading and inhuman" use of chains on pregnant and ill women - and an apology to the misleading MPs over the issue.

Labour seized on the Government's discomfort saying the chaining of women was symbolic of its "arrogance and inhumanity". Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, told Mr ward: "You have been driven to this humiliating retreat not by decency or by compassion, but by panic at the avalanche of

bad publicity. "A wider apology is now required from you, yourself for the brutal and unnecessary humil-

forced on a number of pregnant

Mr Howard insisted, however, that it was an "operational matter". The Prison Service had a responsibility to balance the need to hold prisoners securely with the duty to treat them with humanity and to maintain their dignity and privacy. "The modifications I have announced will, I believe, allow the Prison Service to strike a reasonable balance on behalf of

the public," he said. At a news conference fol-

nouncement, the acting director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, said he had been unhappy with existing policies. Mr Tilt said: "It does not concern me if anyone thinks this is a climbdown. That is a

secondary matter. He said the policy had always been that women in labour should not be handcuffed but that it was difficult to define the onset of labour.

"We were putting our staff in a very difficult position and our own policy was proving unsat-

iation which your policy has lowing Mr Howard's an- isfactory in its result." He said pregnant prisoners humanely were incompatible. What we've done is to shift more towards the humane aspect."

However, it became clear that the climbdown would not satisfy Mr Howard's critics who maintain the use of chains breaches human rights con-ventions and United Nations agreements, which state that hains and irons" should not be used as restraints. At least two women who have been shackled during labour, are

pursuing legal actions against Mr Howard and a third women, ill with the HIV virus and chained for nine days, is also

considering suing. Yesterday a joint statement from a variety of maternity, health and women groups, in-cluding the National Childbirth Trust, made it clear that they wanted a complete ban on the use of chains.

We totally reject shackling of women prisoners. Shackling is degrading and potentially damaging to the health of mothers and babies."

IN BRIEF

Second Maxwell juror taken ill

A second member of the Maxwell trial jury was taken ill yesterday, forcing the judge to adjourn the trial of Kevin and ian Maxwell and former Maxwell company director Larry Trachtenberg on charges of conspiring to defraud pension funds for the third day running.

The delay means the seven men and five women last night spent their 11th night in a botel, one of the longest recorded retirement periods for an English jury. Legal experts believe the record for actually deliberating a verdict is 56 hours 37 minutes for a race murder trial in April 1982, when the jury were se-

questered for eight nights. The Marwell jury had alrea spent 47 hours considering 121 days of evidence and summing up when Judge Nicholas Phillips adjourned the trial early on Tuesday after a female juror complained of a chest infection.

Arms report

John Major and George Mitchell, the former US senator who is heading the international commission on arms decommissioning by Northern Ireland paramilitaries, met at Downing Street for what a spokesman called a "stocktaking" exercise. The three-man body will finalise its report for publication next Wednesday in London, Dublin and Bellast.

NHS undermined

Cutbacks in the National Health Service which prompt people to buy private health insurance are eroding support for the NHS and the concept of universal care, a report published by the Institute of Piscal Studies says. It says the privately insured tend to be better-off, better educated, middle-aged, and more inclined to support the Tories. They do not tayour increased spending on the NHS.

Threat to Royal titles Wayward Royals should be stripped of their titles, Sir David Steel, former Liberal leader and a member of the Privy Council, said as the Duchess of York left for a charity event in the United States trailing criticism about debts of up to Elm. There is growing concern at Westminster over the behaviour of members of the Royal Family undermining support for the monarchy. Sir David hint-ed that the Princess of Wales could lose her title as part of a divorce settlement from the Prince of Wales widely expect-

Over-fast footwork

MPs and motoring organisations condemned a decision by magistrates in Telford not to dis-qualify footballer Chris Armstrong for speeding. Armstrong, 24, striker for Tottenham Hot Spurs and an English squad player, was clocked at 104mph on the M54 in Shropshire after the north London team played at Chester last October. He was fined £500 and given six penal-

Cruelty ban

A former farm worker was fined £250 banned from working with cattle for five years for wilfully and unreasonably causing unnecessary suffering to 98 cows at farm near York. Magistrates in Easingwold, North Yorkshire, were told Michael Chit-tock, 47, broke the cows' tails when he lost his temper and bent them into a U-shape to force the animals into milking stalls.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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OVERSEAS SUBSCILITONS

Acne drug blamed for two deaths

GLENDA COOPER

The most widely prescribed acne treatment has caused two people to die and another to have a liver transplant, according to a report in the British Medical Journal.

There is increasing evidence that Minocycline, an antibiotic, can cause a form of druginduced liver disease, hepatitis, or lupus, a disabling autoimmune disease

Minocycline, sold as Minocin MR, is one of the most widely prescribed antibiotics for acne largely because it needs to be given only once or twice a day and seems not to induce resistance. In 1993 there were more than 800,000 prescriptions of the drug at a cost of £23.3m.

But up to April 1994, 11 cases of minocycline-induced lupus and 16 cases of hepatitis had been reported to the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, according to a paper by Andrew Harrogate District Hospital's department of rheumatology. Most cases described were women. Analysis of these cases and seven others show the

severity of the reactions. A 17-year-old girl developed fatal liver disease, skin infections course of minocycline, despite being given a liver transplant. And a 22-year-old woman died after taking the antibiotic for five months as a result of pancytopenia (reduction in blood cells across the body).

Others found themselves chairbound or initially unable to hold a cup, and another two suffered from jaundice. Other adverse affects of the drug include blue-black excessive pigmentation of the skin, mucus membranes, nails, adult teeth and internal organs. But those who stopped taking the drug recovered within three months, although five people who started taking the drug again found

their symptoms reoccurring.
In an accompanying leading article, the BMJ said that "serious reactions are rare" to minocycline but recommends that its "unusual propensity" for causing such reactions "may make it less safe than other tetracyclines and this should be taken into account when treating essentially benign conditions such as acne".



John Evans from Northampton driving his team of huskies on the banks of Loch Morlich near Avienore in the Highlands yesterday. He was taking part in a practice run for Photograph: Chris Bacon/Press Association the 14th Spillers Winalot/Siberian Husky Club Rally to be held over the weekend

Dorrell offers to ease heavy One year is too workload of family doctors

NICHOLAS TIMMINS **Public Policy Editor**

A radically revamped role for family doctors, providing more of the care traditionally pro-vided in hospitals while nurses and others take on more of the routine work in GPs' surgeries. was offered to general practitioners yesterday by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health.

What amounts to a new vision of general practice and which will almost certainly involve a new contract for GPs was outlined by Mr Dorrell in his first formal meeting with the British Medical Association's family doctors committee.

With both medicine changing fast and new purchasing arrangements breaking down traditional barriers between hospital and GP services, Mr

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Dorrell said before the meeting that there was "a huge opportunity to improve the quality of service to patients and make work more rewarding for staff in the medical profession".

He had, he stressed, an open agenda" to which family doctors themselves were welcome to contribute. But he cited GPs becoming more involved in providing minor accident and emergency services outside hospital, in mental health services, in providing post-operative care in community hospitals or "hospital-athome" schemes, and in providing on-going treatment not just for asthma or diabetes but other conditions, working under protocols designed by

consultants. In turn, nurses in general practice could probably prescribe for more conditions, operating within protocols de-signed by GPs. These devel-opments will have both resource implications and implications for who does what in

primary care," he said. He stressed that if GPs were being asked to do more, in some areas they would have to do less. Attempting to assuage GPs' fears that he is merely adding to a workload which they already see as excessive, he promised "reasonable rewards for reasonable workload", adding: "I do not think GPs have anything to fear from this. Absolutely the contrary."

It should, he said, provide a more rewarding job, freeing the more difficult cases.

Following the meeting, a spokesman for the BMA said the committee "was impressed by Mr Dorrell's constructive ap-

while expressing scepticism that the resources would be made available to allow the change.

With GP leaders agitating for a new contract to replace the much-resented one that Kenneth Clarke, when Secretary of State for Health, imposed on them in 1988. Mr Dorrell said he hoped to agree a set of objectives by early summer.

Detailed talks could then begin ~ a timetable that could see a Labour government having to settle the final package. Although ideas for the new

service are initially being explored with GPs, Mr Dorrell acknowledged the implications for nurses and others. "It is important to know how different professions react to the ideas. We want to hear what they say and get a clearer idea of where

Major 'has created a two-nation Britain'

er the classless society he promised, creating instead a

public meeting, writes Patricia Wynn Davies. Taking the "stakeholder economy" argument into the enemy camp, the Labour leader said that in attacking the con-

John Major has failed to deliv- who promised a classless society set his face against plans that will make a reality of that class-"two nation" Britain, Tony Blair less society?" Mr Blair de-declared last night to a packed manded at a thousand-strong

meeting in Derby.
Invoking the "tell Sid" slogan
of the British Gas sell-off, he said: "It's not Sid the Tories look after. It's Cedric. And wasn't it telling that the first person to cept, the Tories had given up any pretence of serving the whole country. "Why has the man defend the Prime Minister's attack on the stakeholder economy was Cedric Brown?" defend the Prime Minister's

short for divorce says Cardinal

ANDREW BROWN and STEPHEN WARD

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England, is to support opponents of Lord Mackay's controversial divorce Bill by suggesting that a year is too short a time to wait before dissolving a marriage.

His intervention midway

through debates on a multitude of highly critical amendments in the House of Lords will come as a blow to the Lord Chancellor, who had believed that the Catholic bishops of England and Wales were solidly on his side. The Bill would put an end to quickie" divorces; end the concept of fault; and introduce mediation where possible to replace lawyers. Opponents in the Lords want a minimum period

of 18 months or two years. In an article in today's Tablet, the Catholic news magazine, the Cardinal says: "I do myself wonder whether a period as short as a year is sufficient to establish that a marriage has irretrievably broken down."

He adds that marriage counselling is an "essential" element which needs to be added to the Bill as it stands. Lengthening the year's wait-

ing period is the one area where the Lord Chancellor might make a concession to the Bill's opponents in a bid to persuade them to tone down their objections to other provisions.

The mainstream churches in this country had all given their support to the Bill as the least worst way of dealing with the issue. The growing campaign mount-ed by political and religious conservatives has, however, put the Cardinal under pressure in recent months. Today's article is an attempt

to accommodate critics of the compromise, without threatening the essence of the Bill. One source in the Catholic churh described it as "walking a tightrope".

In his article, the Cardinal carefully does not take issue with the abolition of the concept of fault, which has been the central issue for many opponents of the Bill. He quotes the measured

statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in November: "We are not persuaded that ex-cluding 'fault' in the proposed legislation effectively alters the reality that divorce has become available on demand.

"In civil law, marriage is already a temporary contract which can be broken by the unilateral decision of one partner sustained over a period of time.
"The Church's teaching is that a valid marrriage contract

cannot be broken. "From a legal point of view, it is difficult to see what more objective proof of marital breakdown there could be than the sustained determination of

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Scientists admit error on first Aids case



Health Editor

Claims that the world's first Aids case was a sailor from Manchester who died in 1959 were wrong, two of the scientists who did the original research have admitted.

The scientists say the mistake arose because tissue samples from the patient probably became contaminated with a modern strain of HIV. Doubts over the validity of the claim were first revealed in the Independent

Subsequent tests show that David Carr, a 25-year-old who that Aids, reported first in 1981,

Manchester Royal Infirmary, was not infected with the virus. In a letter published in tomorrow's issue of The Lancet, two of the scientists, Andrew Bailey and Gerald Corbitt admit " ... we can find no evidence ... to suggest that the 1959 Manchester patient carried

It was another letter signed by Dr George Williams, a pathologist at Manchester University, Mr Corbitt and Mr Bailey, published in *The Lances* in 1990 which brought worldwide attention and acclaim. It challenged the accepted view

Dr Williams, who had carried out the post-mortem on Mr Carr in 1959, retrieved samples culating in the 1980s. HIV mutates very rapidly and experts expected the Carr virus to be of Mr Carr's tissue which had been in storage for more than 30 years, for detailed analysis by colleagues at the University. Dr Williams had remembered the case because it was so unusual; Mr Carr had suffered from infections common in Aids

patients, In 1994, however, leading American Aids scientists questioned the validity of the research carried out by the team. They had studied the genetic make-up of the Carr virus and were astonished to find that it died of a mysterious illness in was a newly-emerging disease. was identical to HIV strains cir-

died in the 1980s. This has al-

very different from modernstrains, The American team performed more tests and later suggested that tissue samples from Carr used in the original research may have been mixed up with those of another man who

ways been strenuously denied by the Manchester scientists. In their most recent Lancet letter, Mr Bailey and Mr Corbitt said that experiments by an independent team which would have settled this matter were in-

news

Doctors' hunch brings meningitis hope

Doctors in Glasgow have made an important breakthrough in treating the most severe form of meningitis which can kill a patient in just a few hours.

Paediatricians at Yorkhill NHS Trust, Britain's second largest children's hospital, say that experimental treatment carried out on four patients who contracted meningococcal septicaemia shows that early dialysis - blood cleansing - can help to kill the infection. They are urging other doctors to try the method to treat this compara-

tively rare form of the disease. The four children - three girls and a boy aged between two and 12 - were close to death when they were admitted to the intensive care unit at Yorkhill last year. Doctors, alarmed by the speed at which the meningococcal infection had spread through their bodies, decided to administer dialysis immediately rather than waiting for signs of kidney failure.

Despite this early treatment, consultants expected at least three of the four to die within days. They were astonished when one by one the children began to recover. Although three had limbs and toes amputated when the poisoned blood in their legs clotted, all four have now been discharged and are back at home.

The development came too late to save 17-year-old Alison Krunic, who died of meningococcal septicaemia in London on Tuesday. Yesterday her parents said they will sue the hospital which allegedly failed to recognise their daughter's symptoms. Ms Krunic died at Éaling Hospital, west London,



sue over her death

after a doctor allegedly said she was suffering from a bad cold and gave her a painkilling

Ms Krunic's parents took her home by car despite her being unable to walk and being violently sick. Within 90 minutes, she was unconscious and fighting for her life. The family called for an ambulance but one-and-a-half bours later she

was dead.

The Scottish paediatric intensive-care team, led by Dr Crispin Best, was aware that dialysis helped patients in the later stages of the disease. "We wanted to see what would happen if we tried it sooner," Dr Best said yesterday. "We had a hunch it might work."

Dr Best said he was surprised at the success of the treatment. "This form of meningitis is the bacterial equivalent of being run over by a speeding truck. It is a vile, deadly disease and there was great relief when the children's conditions began to improve." It was too early to claim that the discovery would lead to a cure, Dr Best said, but our clinical impression is that the early use of [dialysis] is potentially life-saving.

Doctors and researchers at the hospital, who publish their findings in today's edition of The Lancet, admit they do not know how the dialysis treatment works - only that it does. One theory is that filtering a patient's blood removes the toxins produced by the infection making it easier for the body's immune system to recover and kill the infection itself.

Dr Best and his colleagues are calling on doctors around Britain to "try out" the technique as part of a nationwide survey to determine its effec-tiveness. Medical staff at the County Hospital in Lincoln have already begun to use the methods pioneered in Glasgow. "We are confident we are on to something but we need more information – a structured trial - before we can be sure." At Yorkhill yesterday Ellen Curran, the mother of threevear-old Jonathan who underwent the pioneering treatment, praised the doctors' decision to opt for early dialysis. Jonathan was given just six hours to live when he was admitted.

There is no doubt in my mind that this treatment saved my son's life. He is back to his old self again - bright, cheeky and as far as I am concerned quite brilliant."



'Quite brilliant': Ellen Curran hugs her son Jonathan, 3, who was given six hours to live before the dialysis treatment

The simple facts on a deadly virus

LIZ HUNT

What is meningitis?

The word meningitis means inflammation of the meninges, the delicate membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. It is caused by a viral infection, usually mild, or a bacterial (meningococcal) infection which can be life-threatening.

A bacterium which lives harmlessly in the nose and throat of about 10 to 25 per cent of the population is responsible for most cases of meningococcal meningitis. Doctors do move from the nose/throat to to hospital as a precaution.

cause a systemic infection in car-riers, or why non-carriers some of these will not be due been made. A vaccine against on average only 2,000 people to meningitis. Provisional figures the bacterium hamophilus in-out of the total UK population should become vulnerable.

Have there been more cases this winter than in previous winters?

Not according to the Public Health Laboratory Service which monitors reports of bacterial meningitis. However, cases may have peaked earlier than normal. A number of clusters of cases in the pre-Christmas period, heightened perception of a meningitis epidemic. GPs are also much more aware of meningitis now and innot know why the microbes clined to refer suspected cases

riers, or why non-carriers to meningitis. Provisional figures for 1995 show there were 1361 cases of meningococcal disease and 185 deaths. In 1994, there were 1129 cases reported and 148 deaths (provisional).

> What treatments are available for meningitis?

> Treatment for meningococcal meningitis is the prompt administration of large doses of intravenous antibiotic drugs. Antibiotics may also be prescribed to contacts of a meningitis victim although there is no guarantee of protection.

Vaccine development is problematic but some progress has Not very infectious, which is why

searchers are close to developing a vaccine for meningococcal strain C. An experimental Cvaccine is available and has been used this year.

fluenzae b, has controlled one

type of bacterial meningitis and

immunisation programme.Re-

How is the infection transmitted?

In droplets produced in coughs and sneezes, and by nose-blow-

How infectious is it?

it is now included in the NHS What are the symptoms? The classic symptoms of bacte-

contract the disease each year.

rial meningitis are fever, a se-

vere headache, nausea, vomiting, a dislike of light and a stiff neck. The symptoms develop rapidly, in many cases within a few hours, and are followed by drowsiness and there may be loss of conscious. A red rash which spreads very quickly and is due to leaking capillaries appears in about half of

☐ The National Meningitis Trust Helpline is 0345 538118.

Masari launches fresh attack on Saudis

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

The Saudi dissident, Mohammed al-Masari, brought his propaganda campaign to the heart of the City yesterday, convening a press conference at the London Chamber of Commerce to predict an economic crisis in the Arab kingdom.

Reporters were handed a critical survey of the Saudi economy written by academics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Mr Masari's performance in the City will constitute a new embarrassment to the Government, which is trying to get him out of Britain because ministers fear his activities will enrage the Saudi royal family and put lucrative arms contracts at risk. Mr Masari is appealing against a decision by the Home Secretary to send him to the Caribbean island of Dominica.

"I believe this appeal will take several weeks at least," a cheerful Mr Masari said. "My lawyers tell me the Home Office have not even instructed their barristers yet. Then of course we can take the matter to a judicial review, which can take many months. Meanwhile, we are

Mr Masari, who wants to see a pure Islamic state in Saudi Arabia, said he had been advised by Special Branch officers to adopt a low profile "in the interests of my own safety". But he had decided that the work of his Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) should continue.

The CDLR's latest project, unveiled yesterday, is a 41-page study entitled The Financial State of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its author, Latif Wahid of SOAS, is a specialist in the international oil market.

Mr Wahid predicted a sharp increase in Saudi Arabia's budget deficit and current account deficit. He said weaker oil prices and fluctuations in market supply and demand indicated that the kingdom would face an economic crisis, worsened by expenditure on arms from Britain and other Western powers.

Super-skilled male secretary loses agency sex bias claim

A highly skilled male typist yesterday lost his fight to prove a secretarial agency would not find him a job because he was

Alan Robinson, 30, claimed the national agency Office Angels sexually discriminated Bank. Mr Robinson, of Reinagainst him by failing to contact him after an interview at its Leeds office, despite a shortage of qualified typists in the city.

Mr Robinson, whose action was supported by the Equal Op-portunities Commission, also claimed he was refused a typing test at the interview because he was a man.

Office Angels staff told the Leeds tribunal that it was standard procedure not to give ap- inferred that his recollection to- had RSA typing qualifications

that Mr Robinson was sent three letters after his interview in July last year - one of them wood Road, Huddersfield, said he did not receive the letters.

The tribunal's chairman, Leslie Gould, told the hearing that the application was dis-missed because Office Angels had given a "satisfactory ex-planation of what occurred". He added: "Due to the differences between what he said in his original application and the evidence we have heard, we have

Robinson said he was also available for temporary work, and whether he actually demanded a standard introductory letter, a typing test or just asked if he was going to be given one.

Mr Robinson claimed that on

the afternoon of his interview three women were given typing tests. But the barrister for Office Angels, Thomas Linden. said the women were applying for temporary jobs and it was procedure to give them a test. Another male temp was interviewed and tested on the day and was eventually offered a post by the agency.

Mr Robinson, unemployed,

plicants for a permanent post a day is not accurate." Discreping test. And they insisted ancies included whether Mr exam. However, he failed to include the qualifications on his Office Angels application form.
Mr Linden said: "It's quite ex-

traordinary that Mr Robinson did not say that he had outstanding qualifications." But Mr Robinson's solicitor Martin Brewer said: "The reason he wasn't offered any job was because he was a man and he did not fit in with their stereotype view of what a secretary ought to have been."

After the verdict Mr Robinson said: "Obviously I feel disappointed but having said that, I feel it's brought the issue of equality for male typists to the forefront. I have achieved that."

INQUIRY INTO ISLATION AGAINST ERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against <u>terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider,</u> please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.

Sting in call to | Ports alert for legalise ecstasy

STEVE BOGGAN

Sting, the pop star and sometime environmentalist, was at the centre of a row yesterday after calling for the dance drug ecstasy to be legalised.

Sting, 44, who admitted taking ecstasy, was speaking in an interview in London with a Swedish newspaper. Asked whether ecstasy should be legalised, he said: "Absolutely, yes. Then we can make sure what we take is safe and that it is ecstasy. If we leave it to the criminak, they can put anything they want into the pili.

"In England, millions of ecstasy pills are consumed every week. Three or four have died in God knows how many years. Teenagers notice the statistics. They are prepared to take the risks." He said he had taken the drug and found it "interesting".

Aids Co

Sting also said: "I have every sympathy for the Bens family and their position and it's a tragedy that she died. But Leah Betts was killed by water - she drank too much or too little -

and that's an educational issue." Janet Betts, the mother of Leah, who died after taking an ecstasy pill at her 18th birthday

an unaduherated form is safe.

This is clearly not the case.



Sting: Drug is 'interesting'

party, said: "Leah didn't die from excess liquid. The cause of death on the certificate says ec-

stasy poisoning."
Dr Marcus Rattray, lecturer in biochemistry at Guy's Hospital, London, said the pop star's call for testing was point-less. Research has shown that the adulteration of drugs has not been a factor in any of the

deaths. Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said: "Sting scems to be under the misapprehension that ecstasy in

crash driver

Channel ports were alerted to leaflets to freight drivers at look out for a lorry driver last Ramsgate and Dover and we look out for a lorry driver last night as police investigated the will also be stopping drivers at death of a teenage cyclist in

Fifteen-year-old Amy Durl-Bay in Kent, was on her paperround when the incident oc-curred, at about 7.30am yesterday, on the Londonbound carriageway of the busy A299 Thanet Way at Greenhill. The driver stopped to remove

the bicycle wreckage from his vehicle before driving off. Kent Police officers, trying to trace the driver of what witnesses said was a foreign-registered lorry, gave its description to port officials at Ramsgate and

One theory is that the lorry, travelling in convoy with another, may have arrived on an early morning ferry from the

A police spokeswoman said: "We have been in contact with the ports and also local transport companies and given them a description of the vehicle we are looking for. So far we have not been able to trace the lorry or the driver.

"Tomorrow we will be issuing to call 01227 817145.

scene at the same time." The two vehicles are deing from Greenhill, near Herne Bay in Kent, was on her paper-units and blue trailers with blue canvas tops with either yellow

a check point at the accident

or white writing on them.

Amy, a pupil at Herne Bay
High School, had completed her mock-GCSE exams last week and had ambitions of becoming a nurse. Her body was identi-

fied by her parents.

Danny O'Donovan, head teacher at Herne Bay High School, where she was a prefect, said his pupils and staff were in shock. "I have called in educational psychologists and counsellors to help me break the news to the school and they will be on hand over the next few days. We will especially be keeping a close eye on those

who were close to Amy." Mr O'Donovan said Amy was a credit in every way. She was one of those girls for whom nothing was too much trouble and she was always willing to help with school events." Police have urged witnesses

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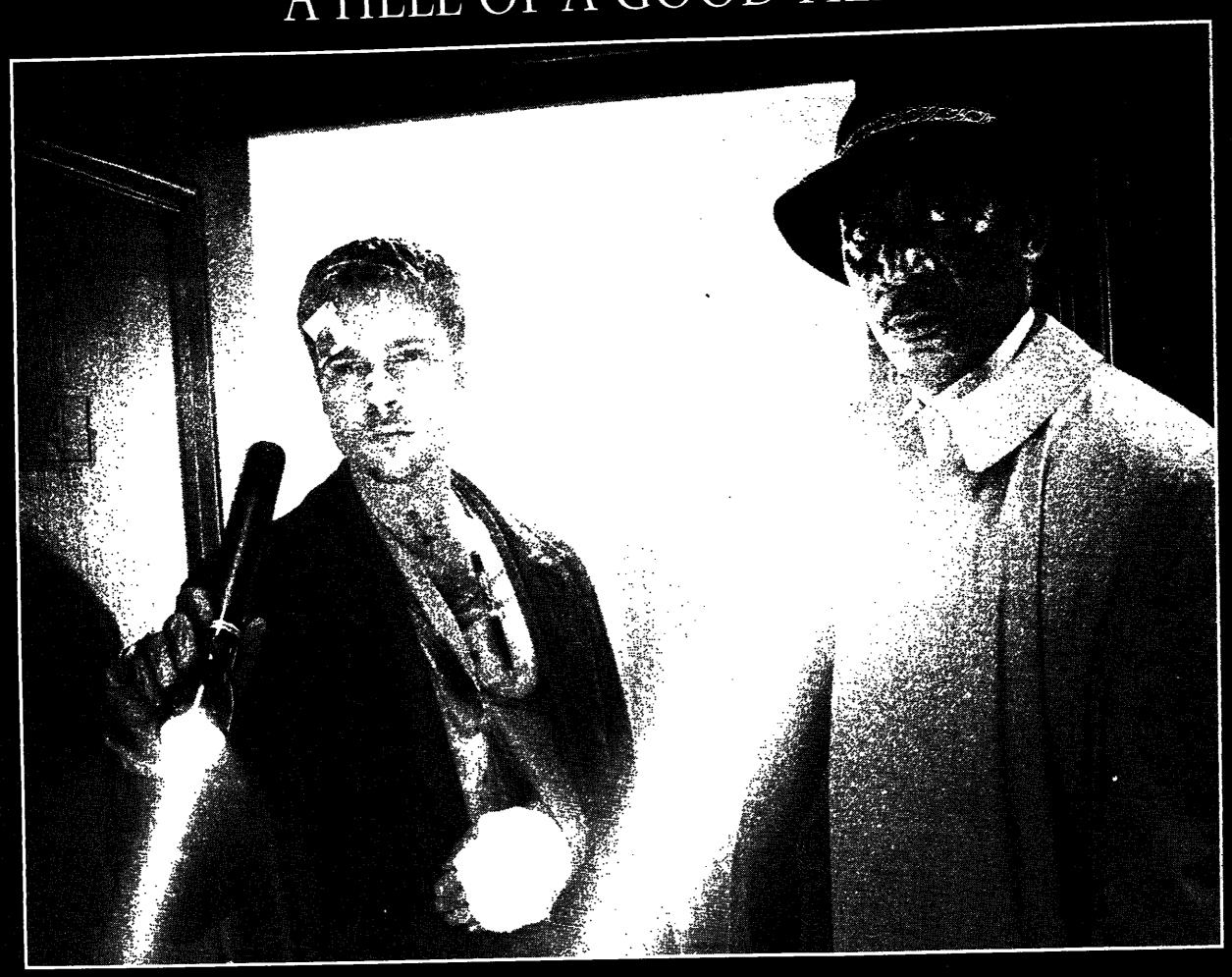
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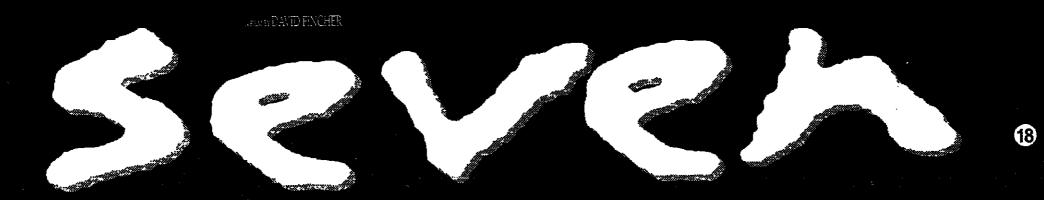
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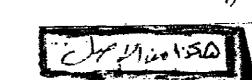


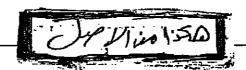
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Kidney patient given cancerous transplant

JOJO MOYES

A long-term kidney sufferer went into hospital for a transplant expecting a new lease of life but emerged to find himself facing a prolonged battle against cancer, a court was told

In a High Court damages ac-tion, a judge yesterday de-nounced hospital "blunders"

which nearly cost Peter Summer his life when a doctor failed to tell him that a cancerous kidney had been mistakenly transplanted into his body during the operation 10 years ago.

The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, conceded that it was wrong for deciding not to remove the kidney, or tell Mr Sumner, 51, of the risk, despite discovering that it had

had cancer.

The cancer subsequently pread through Mr Sumper's body. But Mr Justice Collins ruled the hospital was not negligent in failing to diagnose the kidney as cancerous, because of the speed at which transplants Mr Sumner, from Haywards

little chance of survival. Heath, West Sussex, had suf-

his twenties, eventually undergoing a transplant in June 1986, his counsel, Mr Michael Parroy QC, told the court.

But after the consultant, who is now dead, chose not to tell Mr Summer of the cancer risk or remove the organ, the cancer spread and he was left with

The judge said staff at the

made greater blunders in the way they treated him once they realised that they had put in a potentially cancerous kidney".

After believing for months that he was dying, Mr Sumner, against all expectations, went into remission. But Mr Parroy said the effect of the combination of dialysis and radiotherapy was to "totally wear down and

family had a bad history of early death from cancer and the diagnosis was to him a death

Mr Sumner remained on dialysis and under observation until June 1990 when he underwent a second transplant.

He is now claiming substantial damages from the hospital's manager, the former Brighton

demoralise" him. "His close Health Authority, which conceded that he should have been warned earlier of the risk that the kidney was cancerous.

There was a total failure to carry out any proper checks on him ... when he had that kidinside him," Mr Parroy

a "stoical" man who had borne

his near-fatal illness with great

"After 10 years, obviously I'm very relieved." Mr Justice Collins is expected to assess the amount of damages due to him next week. A spokeswoman for Brighton Health Care NHS Trust said "a He described Mr Sumner as great deal had changed" since

psychologically scarred".

Mr Sumner said afterwards:

Bypass activists and the baronet's wife



DANNY PENMAN

Newbury bypass.

posed to the road.

Amid the mud and trees of

Berkshire yesterday the middle

classes stood shoulder-to-shoul-

der with protesters in the cam-

paign to block work on the

Social interface: Lady Barber on the Newbury frontline

faith in the political system.

As hardened environmental activists hung from trees to prevent clearance work, a very different group of people stood below, among them Lady Bar-ber, disgruntled Tory voter and wife of the baronet, Sir David

"As far as direct action is con-She has been campaigning against the road for the last eighteen months. "I'm a Conservative voter and I'm in a bit of a dilemma at the moment," she said. Lady Barber is the tivists," she said.

chairwoman of the Tory party association in the nearby village electronics company and a small farm, has taken to giving of Inkpen and is implacably opthe protesters food, money and "I know I'm behaving like also moral support.

one of Arthur Scargill's miners but I've never done anything like this before," she said. A keen hunter, Lady Barber, Tessa, who live on the town's would normally find herself

confronting many of the activists but now she finds herself on the same side. Their radicalism has even begun to rub off on her. "I'm now a bit more radical and its dominating my life at the moment. There's a dichotomy

campaigning or come back and be a housewife? It's a question I cannot answer," she said. Jo Carter, a former Tory voter who was also out with the

in my life. Should I carry on

protesters, says she has lost

You do not have the ability to challenge the decisions of the Secretary of State and anybody who wishes to uphold this democratic system must be aware

"We are low in confidence in the procedures but gaining conviction that we should do something about it. Constitutionally we've done as much as we can and this is the sort of thing that leads to more action groups.

cerned a lot of people like myself identify with the people involved. We have children and grandchildren at university with the same philosophy as the ac-Ms Carter, 49, who runs an

Also adding support was Peter Yarrow, owner of a local newsagents chain, and his wife

Mr Yarrow said the road was not supported by the whole town as many felt it would lead to Newbury becoming "as big as Basingstoke" and would attract social problems such as unem-

The protesters were quick to

welcome their unlikely allies. Tony Hooligan, one of the protest co-ordinators, said: "Nobody asks your political views, we've all got the same road.

Photograph: David Crump

aim. It's pointless to put people into categories, most people are individuals. Everybody is just concerned about what's hap-

On Day 10 since construction of the road began, the battle had moved to Pen Wood, south west of the Berkshire town. where contractors attempted to continue tree-cutting.

Three people were arrested as about 60 protesters were outmanoeuvred by some 200 police and security guards allowing workers to cut down about 70 silver birches.

Meanwhile, the chief executives of the environmental establishment, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Wildlife Trusts and the Council for British Archaeology, joined forces with Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth yesterday to support the activists opposing the road.

The growing opposition to the road has also begun to worry the construction companies currently tendering to build the road. Only the route clearance contract has been awarded with the main contract to be awarded in six weeks.

Road construction costs have increased by 30 per cent in the last year and they are concerned that this may force the Government to scrap the project. The spiralling security costs plus the escalating "risk premium" may also encourage the Government to cancel the

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River crossing: Environmentalists at the River Lambourn, near Newbury, where the bypass will cut through

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Swiss pupils years ahead of English in maths

WENDY BERLINER Education Correspondent

English children at the end of primary school are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in maths even though they have been in school for about 18 months less, according to research published today.

Swiss children spend more time on arithmetic, particularly mental arithmetic, and more time practising what they learn. the paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social

Research says. English children spend more time working alone and have to tackle more difficult mathematical concepts before they are confident in the simpler

The study looked at how eight- and nine year-olds were taught maths in England. Switzerland and Germany. where maths teaching has been intensively researched.

On the Continent two-thirds of the lesson would be given to the whole class, with children expected to answer lots of questions and write answers on the blackboard or an overhead projector. In contrast, English schools relied mainly on individual work books with children getting a minute or two from the teacher as he or she moved around the class to attend to children individually.

Four-fifths of the time was spent on arithmetic on the Continent, whereas in England the national curriculum specified numbers as only one of four

maths attainment targets. Swiss and German children spend longer on each maths topic before moving on to the next. Typical continental textbooks have six times as many exercises per topic as English textbooks. Progression of topics is also more carefully graded than in English textbooks where more difficult concepts are introduced before it is assumed the children have mastered the simpler ones.

The study was funded by the Gatshy Foundation, one of the Sainsbury charities, which is now funding a trial introduction of continental maths teaching methods into six primary schools in Barking and Dagen-ham, Essex. Early indications from the year-old scheme suggest the number of pupils per-forming poorly in maths is heginning to decline. Heads and class teachers were taken to watch maths lessons in Swiss and German schools before introducing the techniques in their own classrooms.

Graham Last, senior schools inspector for Barking and Dagenham, said year groups on the Continent had minimum standards they were expected to achieve in maths and teachers gave this their very highest priority. "Our national curriculum, in contrast, does not tell you what children should achieve by the end of each year group."

The authority has now produced detailed lesson notes and bought overhead projectors for the primary schools taking part in the project so that teachers can use the continental style of whole-class teaching.

He said: "Children don't get left behind. If, at the end or the oral session, there are four or five children who don't understand what is being taught the teacher can work with them."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, hopes the study will be examined by government curriculum advisers. There is a worrying and widening gap in performance in maths between our children and those in other European countries. This huge gap suggests that we must learn from the way in which the subject is taught in countries such as Switzerland and Germany if we are to raise standards." Laving the Foundations of Numeracy:a comparison of primary school textbooks in Britain. Germany and Switzerland, by

Helvia Bierhoff. National In-

stitute Discussion Paper 90.

On the front line: A nurse comforting a patient at the South Western psychiatric hospital in London

Psychiatric ward close to despair

Sapna Gupta, a junior doctor in only her second psychiatric job. punches the telephone in growing desperation. "Have you got a bed?" she says. "Any type of bed? No ... No. I've tried there, they've got no beds either."

Her anxiety is over the fate of a young, well-built man waiting in her ward. Originally detained under the Mental Health Act as a risk to himself or others, he absconded from the

hospital shortly after Christmas. The police have just found him miles away in south London. He is so disturbed that no one doubts he needs now to be on a locked ward. But the hospital's own five-bedded locked ward is full. Dr Gupta keeps punching the buttons.

Suddenly there is an explosion. The man is off, out of the ward door, bounding down the stairs to an access door which locks magnetically to keep unThe mental health service was in crisis two years ago. Since then, things have got worse. Nicholas Timmins reports

wanted visitors out. He simply bursts through it, busting the hinges, pursued by two of the ward's four nurses, neither of whom is a match for him physically.

A chase ensues. Dr Gupta keeps phoning. Five minutes later, downcast, the nurses return. We cornered him in a corridor." one says, "but he just came at us swinging and was away. The next phone call will be

to the police. There is nothing more the hospital can do except tell its community teams that the patient is again on the streets. No one can be sure quite how much of a risk he is to himself or others. He was not in long enough to be assessed. Dr Gupta, 27. is at the nurs-

would like admitted. es' station on Nelson ward in

Britain's inner cities is "in crisis". Lambeth's South Western psychiatric hospital. The tension in Dr David Roy, medical director her voice is palpable. So is the of the NHS trust in Lambeth, atmosphere on the ward, taut says - a verdict the Mental

like a violin string about to scap. A woman is weeping, uncontrollably, great rivers of tears pouring down her cheeks. A man laughs, hvena-like, when anyone looks at him.

There are 19 beds on this ward. But it is currently responsible for 27 patients. The others are out "on leave" - trial periods of a day or two back in the community. They may do well. Or they may break down. It is better they do well. Their beds are filled. And there is a waiting list of six patients whom the community psychiatric teams

This is a service that across

a locum, who will move on.

if anything, things have got The court diversion scheme. aimed at getting mentally ill offenders into hospital not prison. has filled the secure beds to the point where Dr Roy's service now has 25 local patients in private secure hospitals around England. Scotland and Wales, at a cost to the unit £80,000 per place per year. Meanwhile, mental illness in the high unemployment, socially deprived inner cities has

Health Act Commission first de-

livered two years ago and re-

peated last month, warning that

commued to rise. Consultant psychiatrists leaving the inner city because of stress. Dr Roy's service has lost two in the past two years and been able to attract only one -

Dr Roy's solution is not more acute beds, but action to take pressure off the top and bottom of the system. More secure beck to handle the mentally disordered offenders and provide immediate access to those needing medium secure care. More 24-hour staff homes, respite and emergency services out in the community which cost less than an acute hospital place and are better for patients. At South Western itself.

some help is on hand. Next month a high-quality £20m development opens, with seven extra locked beds. But with 25 patients out in the private sector, it does not take a genius to work out that Dr Roy's problems will be eased, not solved.

Lottery cash for arts 'not élitist'

REBECCA FOWLER

Jeremy Isaacs, the directorgeneral of the beleaguered Royal Opera House, came under further fire last night at the Onford Union, where the National Lottery was attacked for élitism by critics led by Ray-

mond Gubbay, the impressio.
The most colourful attack against the distribution of lottery grants, including £78m for the redevelopment of the Royal Opera, in London, was made by Floelia Benjamin, the former presenter of *Playschool*.

Mr Isaacs reddened as Miss Benjamin claimed the arts had been hijacked by "arry larties". "It's like having a private par-ty and asking the neighbours to pay for it without inviting

them." Ms Benjamin said.
Ms Benjamin suggested that
sculptures made out of toilet rolls on Playschool, which she described as an art form for the masses, should be exhibited at the Tate Gallery. Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council who was defending Mr Isaacs. retorted: "They already have." But the most convincing de-

fence in favour of lottery grants to great arts institutions was made by Deborah Bull, principal ballerina for the Royal Bal-iet. She accused the critics of distribution of lottery money of patronising the public.

"I was the fourth daughter of a travelling salesman in working-class Derby, my parents had never seen a bailet before they saw me dancing one," she said, "We're demeaning people by telling them they cannot be touched by great art.

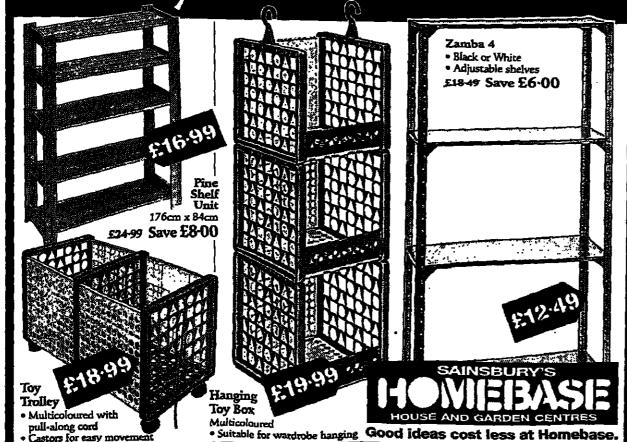
She was supported by Lord Gowrie, who said opera was not elitist. The popularity of artists such as Pavarotti, he said. matched that of Mick Jagger. Despite the recent attacks

against him. Mr Isaacs was ebullient when his side won the debate last night by 122 votes to 47. He compared Britain's public spending on the arts to France, which he declared the cultural capital of Europe.

"We're never going to get quite up there, but we can make sure the rain doesn't come through the Royal Opera House roof as it does today," Mr



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NatWest

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 18 January 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank Ple

Channel 5 critics MARIANNE MACDONALD

The Independent Television Commission yesterday denied acting unlawfully in allowing Channel 5 Broadcasting to provide extra financial information about its licence bid after the Its defence came on the sec-

Media Correspondent

ond day of a High Court judi-cial review of the ITC's award of the Channel 5 licence to C5B in October, which the three un-successful bidders - Virgin TV, UKIV and Rupert Murdoch's New Century TV - argue was procedurally improper.

They claim that C5B was unfairly allowed to increase its

funding for programmes from £206m to £306m after the bids were submitted in May. But Jonathan Sumption QC, for the ITC, said it was common sense for the regulator to con-

sider the most up-to-date fi-

nancial figures. He also

attacked the argument that CSB had failed to demonstrate it had enough funding to cope

ITC hits back at

in difficult trading situations. Affidavits from Sir George Russell, the ITC chamman, and Peter Rogers, its deputy chief executive, showed they had few doubts about the ability of the onsortium to raise more funds.

The shareholding agreement which the CSB consortium drew up 19 weeks after the deadline response to what has been portrayed as a tutorial by the ITC on how to improve its bid application was merely clambcation, Mr Sumption claimed.

But the ITC's advice was equivalent to an examiner correcting a candidate who had failed to read the questions properly, Sir Patrick Neill, for

CTV, earlier told the court. NCTV argues that it should be awarded the licence to start next January if the court finds it was unlawfully given to C5B. The case continues today.

Barclays Base Rate Change.

Barclays Bank PLC and

Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited

announce that with effect from

18th January 1996, their Base Rate

decreased from 6.50% to 6.25%



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With effect from the close of business on Thursday 18th January 1996 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is decreased from 6.5% p.a. to 6.25% p.a,

> All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.





Zoo waits for its 297lb baby to take her bow

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Chester Zoo will reveal its new baby elephant to the public tomorrow. Born just before Christmas after a 636-day preg-nancy, she drinks 12 litres a day of the powdered milk used for human babies, and has put on 30kg (66lb) in just four weeks and now weighs 135kg (297lb).

The Asiatic elephant baby. whose name will be chosen by viewers of the BBC's Blue Peter programme, was shown off to the press yesterday. She has been rejected by her mother. Thi, but is thriving and lively. and has been "partially inte-grated" with the eight-strong herd at Chester,

The senior females have been supportive so we're hoping she will fit in well," said the zoo's marketing manager, Chris Vere. Meanwhile keepers are maintaining a 24-hour watch, even sleeping beside her.

The baby is only the second Asiatic elephant to have been critical first four weeks, in a British zoo. The first was also born at Chester, he is now 18 and still resident.

There are between 34,000 and 51,000 of the species left in the wild, about one-tenth the number of the larger African elephant, and the population is falling fast. Even Asia's do-mesticated elephant popula-tion, used for shifting wood and other heavy tasks, is dwin-

dling rapidly in an increasingly mechanised world. The Asiatic species used to roam from Syria to China, but today its range only stretches from India to Vietnam, with a cut-off group of less than 300 in Yunnan province, China. The numbers in Vietnam are thought to have fallen by threequarters in 25 years, down to between 300 and 400.

The elephant's forest habitats are disappearing because of logging and farming clearances. Poachers kill the animal for its hides, teeth and ivory. Rising hu-

born, and to have survived the man occupation around its forests leads to increasing con-flict between the animals which trample fields in search of crops - and impoverished farmers. Up to 300 indians are killed

by the elephants each year. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says the Asiatic elephant has no future in the wild without a concerted effort to preserve its habitats and avert conflicts with people.

There is controversy about how useful a role zoos like Chester can have in saving the species. Mr Vere said that if the Asiatic elephant became extinct in the wild then it could survive in captivity and be reintroduced to the wild, provided that a sufficient area of its forests could be maintained or recreated.

But conservationists doubt whether such a large, social animal could ever make a suc-cessful transition from zoo enclosures back to nature. A spokeswoman for the WWF said: "The answer must be to protect their wild habitat."

Trunk call: The new baby Asian elephant at Chester Zoo. She will be shown to the public for the first time tomorrow Police tests of CS spray to go ahead in 16 forces

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

CS sprays are to be issued to about 2,500 police patrol officers throughout England and Wales in March, it was announced yesterday.

Chief constables have decided to go ahead with trials of the hand-held incapacitates in need to balance concerns about 16 forces despite plans for earlier tests being halted after a police instructor was badly injured during a demonstration.

Police chiefs yesterday contentially dangerous. However, they believe their officers need greater protection from in- would have to exercise discre creasingly violent offenders and armed criminals.

Trials of the CS canisters, which are worn on an officer's belt and have a range of up to three metres, will last six months. If successful all officers throughout the country could eventually be issued with the devices. The CS powder is mixed with a solvent inside the camister and sprayed into a person's face. It takes immediate effect and causes streaming eyes and nose, eyelids spasm, breathing difficulties, and in some cases blistering to the skin. Officers will be trained for a day before

being given the sprays.

The trials will take place in the Metropolitan Police, and the West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Kent, Leicestershire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, and West Yorkshire forces.

They were due to take place a Metropolitan Police instructor suffered 50 per cent burns to his eyes and had to have them covered for five days. He has warned that the spray is not properly tested and could cause severe injuries to the public. Civil liberty groups have repeatedly argued that not enough is known about the sprays.

Tony Burden, Chief Constable of Gwent and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) self-defence sub-committee, admitted the sprays to be put on trial were the same as the one that injured the officer, but said the training and guidance on aftercare had been health with the threat of violence for officers on the street.

That threat is increasing daily." He added that there was a belief within the police that the ceded that the CS spray was po- balance of power was too far tipped in favour of the criminal. He emphasised that officers tion in using CS, and could only use "reasonable force".

Jim Sharples, president of Acpo and Chief Constable of Merseyside, said the sprays were not a substitute for firearms. "There's a gap between the baton and the firearm and this less-than-lethal option fills that gap."
Similar devices are already in

use in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Home Office and the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, yesterday welcomed the announcement. David Maclean, the Home Office minister, said research had established that CS did not pose a significant health risk.

Chief constables also re-

vealed that they had agreed on the structure of a national police squad to combat organised crime. The new body will have an operational wing made up of the existing six regional crime squads, which will be headed by last year but where halted after a national co-ordinator, probably a chief constable. A new police authority should be established to oversee the unit.

A separate intelligence gathering wing will be made up of the National Criminal Intelligence Service and a small number of M15 officers. The police chiefs want NCIS to be independent from the Home Office.

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DAILY POEM

Poem for a Man with no Sense of Smell

By Kate Clanchy

This is simply to inform you:

that the thickest line in the kink of my hand smells like the feel of an old school desk, the deep carved names worn sleek with sweat;

that beneath the spray of my expensive scent my ampits sound a bass note strong as the boom of a palm on a kettle drum;

that the wet flush of my fear is sharp as the taste of an iron pipe, midwinter, on a child's hot tongue; and that sometimes, in a breeze, the delicate hairs on the nape

of my neck, just where you might bend your head, might hesitate and brush your lips. hold a scent frail and precise as a fleet of tiny origami ships, just setting out to sea.

Kate Clanchy was born in Glasgow in 1965 and was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford. She now works as a schoolteacher in the East End of London. The recipient of a Gregory Award in 1994, she had work published last year in Amil New Poets 2 and a first collection, Slattern (Chano, £6.99), from which this poem is taken, was published earlier this month.

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and Jail

Lobbying MP is cleared of guilt under old rules

JOHN RENTOUL

Political Correspondent

The former Conservative minister Patrick Nicholls was yesterday cleared of wrongdoing in lobbying ministers on behalf of a company in which he had a financial interest before the rules on MPs' disclosure were tightened last November. Mr Nicholls was the first MP Minister - ban all advocacy on

to have his case decided by Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner for standards, whose appointment last year he had bitterly opposed.

But Sir Gordon's report sig-nalled clearly that he would have fallen foul of the new rules, and dismissed his claim that he had done nothing wrong because he would only have received payment if the company were successful. The distinction between

Mr Nicholls. MP for Teignbridge, Devon, tried to persuade ministers to buy water-purifying sys-tems from World Water Services, which offered him a 5 per cent shareholding if it made a profit. He had declared his interest in WWS, as required under the old rules, but the new rules - passed when 23 Tories rebelled in a Commons defeat for the Prime

in a letter to the company, leaked to the press, Mr Nicholls promised: "I can ensure that we are given a hearing . . . using my own credibility with ministers to promote what WWS has to

MPs could benefit.

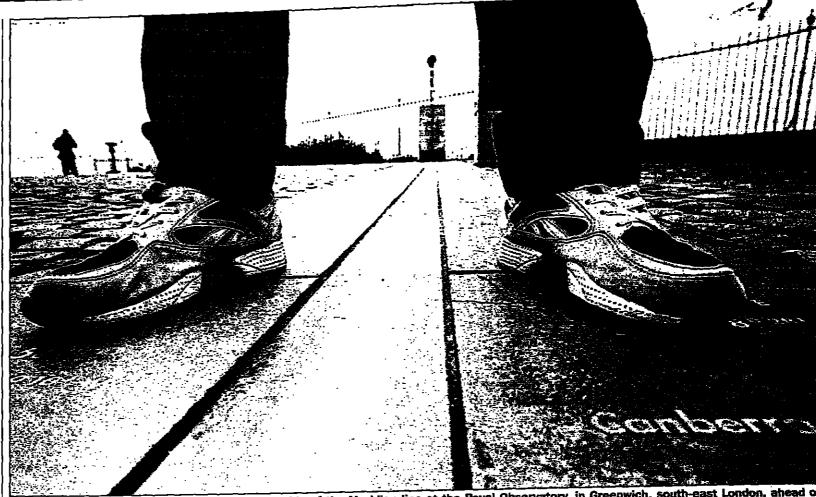
Mr Nicholls tabled parliamentary questions to find out about government departments' use of water and wrote to tion of future payment "could Michael Heseltine, then Presi-

not be maintained", it said. dent of the Board of Trade, plugging WWS and asking about grants to help it expand.

Attacking the appointment of Sir Gordon to oversee MPs ethics, Mr Nicholls had said: "We got into this position ... because two stupid, silly, greedy members did something that most of us would never do," referring to Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick, who were disciplined for being willing to behalf of interests from which accept cash for questions from

reporters posing as businessmen. Mr Nicholls resigned as adviser to the company after November's vote, but his role was referred to Sir Gordon by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader.

Mr Prescott said: "Mr Nicholls has been technically cleared but morally condemned. Of course I accept the findings of the report, but most people will rightly be shocked



Testing time: A Russian tourist stands on either side of the Meridian line at the Royal Observatory, in Greenwich, south-east London, ahead of today's second reading in the Commons of the controversial British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, put forward by the Tory MP John Butterfill, which would bring clocks forward by one hour throughout the year, making evenings lighter but early mornings darker

Major laughs off whiff of Tory unrest

of Tory backbench moves to depose him as "silly speculation" and "nonsense"

Laughing it off during Com-mons Questions was made easier for the Prime Minister by Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, who disingenuously offered his condolences that "the 'bastards' are

plotting again". The "bastards" was Mr Major's description, picked up on untransmitted tape, of rightwingers in his Cabinet. However reports in some of yesterday's newspapers suggested a "bloodless coup" was being considered by party "grandees"

Mr Mullin said the current lifficulties of the Party were not Mr Major's fault. "He simply has the bad luck to be Prime Minister at the time when the bills are coming in for the Thatcher decade.

"If I might offer him a word of advice, it's not a leadership election he needs to offer them, it's a general election. That would shut them up.

Amid laughter from both sides. Mr Major recalled that the Sunderland MP had some experience, having run the leadership election of one of the losing candidates [Tony Benn] in an earlier Labour Party leadership election.

"So I take with some interest what he says, but perhaps I won't follow it to the letter." Seemingly buoyed up by the whiff of unrest, the Prime Minister dealt briskly with Ian Pear-

son, Labour winner of the Dudley West by-election, who wondered what difference had been made by last year's lead-ership contest. "We have this silly speculation almost every week there is a Thursday in," Mr Major replied. "It has been nonsense in the past and its nonsense now.

Speculation that the Min-istry of Defence would choose Land Rover ambulances rather than an Austrian competitor proved spot on. MPs were told 800 Land Rover ambulances were to be ordered along with 8,000 Defender XDs the ground in 30 seconds. As a from the same manufacturer, replacing about half the Army's lowed through."

Tohn Major yesterday fleet of ageing utility vehicles. brushed aside fresh reports. The orders are worth more than £200m and should help Bloc

sustain 500 jobs. The announcement coincided with the Commons' annual debate on the Army during which Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, dwelt on the "daunting task" of recruiting enough young soldiers for the fighting end. To main-tain the right balance of age and experience the Army must recruit some 15,000 youngsters a year. "The truth is that fewer volunteers are coming forward

than we would like," he said. The Army is running campaigns and advertising at 1.100 job centres. According to the MoD, the Infantry, Armoured together 2,000 short.

Mr Soames, who enjoyed his days in the 11th Hussars, said



the Army was still a career without parallel in variety and excitement. But better than his list of official jollies was the story of Neil Coull, of the Royal Logistic Corps, who was challenged to an impromptu boxing match by the commander of a Muslim road block in Bosnia.

Corp Coull, from Billingham in Cleveland, was on a routine mail run last July when he found a Canadian convoy halted at the road block. He insisted the British forces' mail be allowed through but the commander barred the route until he noticed a pair of boxing gloves in the back of the Land Rover. "Corp Coull, a keen amateur boxer, was promptly chal-lenged to a winner-takes-all boxing match." Mr Soames related. "A makeshift ring was marked out by the roadside and amid much cheering, Corp Coull knocked his opponent to result, the Queen's mail was al-

Pay demand MPs seek Nolan support

COLIN BROWN

Senior Tory MPs want the controversial issue of pay rises for MPs to be referred to the Nolan Committee on public standards.

The MPs are seeking the support of the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats to refer the growing demands for a large increase in their £34,0850. a-year salaries to the Nolan Committee to ensure that action

They fear that Parliament has become hamstrung over MPs' pay rises, after the row surrounding MPs' earnings which followed the Nolan Committee recommendations on their

private incomes. Sir Terence Higgins, a member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee, is one of porting referral to the Nolan rise.

Committee. He has made it clear to colleagues that it could not be done by Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, without the backing of Ann Taylor, Labour's spokesman, and the

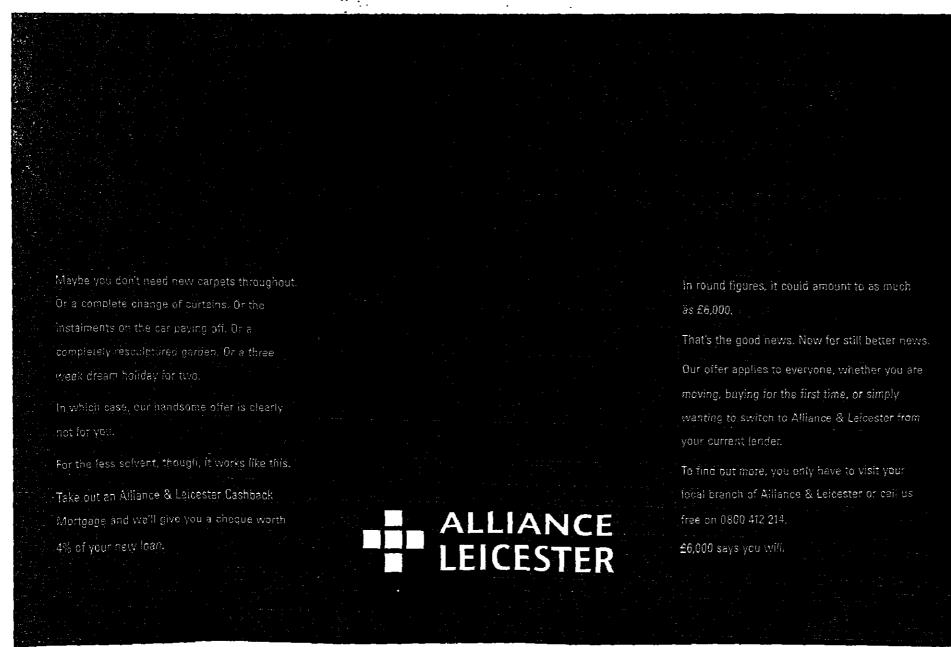
Liberal Democrats. Labour and Liberal Democrat sources said yesterday they both supported the principle of MPs' pay being decided by an independent formula, and may support such a move.

There are misgivings about the idea among some Tory MPs. "Labour will agree to a pay rise for MPs, providing we stop all our outside earnings. I don't think we'd like that," said one Tory backbencher.

A poll in Parliamentary Monitor by Harris Political Research this week showed that both Conservative and Labour those senior Tory MPs sup- MPs want a substantial pay

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Home Office admits jobless link to crime

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Unemployment is forcing a new generation of young men into a kind of "perpetual ado-

lescence" that leads to more crime, according to Home Office research. The study provides little comfort for ministers, not only be-

cause it underlines links between unemployment and offending, but also because it suggests that the threat of being caught and imprisoned did not deter them. Completed two years ago, the study was one of six which the Government was accused of "sitting on" because it did not like the conclusions.

It has found that men are no longer growing out of their of-fending behaviour – mainly theft and burglary – in their late offences they had commi They were also questic about their use of drugs. teens, and are instead continuing their criminal activities well that young male offenders develop a moral conscience which may inhibit their offending as

face more serious hazards in one parent or in a step-family, making the transition from childhood to adulthood - in par-ticular the availability and heavy use of drugs increasing the risk of criminal activity.

But while girls, who, between 14 and 17, offend almost as much as their male counterparts, mature out of the cycle, boys do not. A key factor is the inability to find work - traditionally one of the main ways of "providing a sense of direction and security and bestowing the status of manhood upon young males," the report says.

Researchers questioned more than 2,500 young people aged between 14 and 25 about their lifestyle, backgrounds, family life, schooling - and any offences they had committed. They were also questioned

They found that a quarter of all juvenile crime is committed into their twenties. There was, by a hard core of just 3 per cent said the report, "little evidence of young offenders. Poor parenting and early truancy from school were key factors. Young may inhibit their offending as they grow older". The study concludes that young people today offend than those living with SW1H 9AT.

although young men who had had a particularly bad relationship with their father were particularly likely to offend.

The survey also found that one in two males and one in three females had admitted to committing offences, with the same numbers admitting to using drugs - mostly cannabis.

The report, by John Graham and Ben Bowling, recommends targeting drug abuse pro-grammes at 13- and 14-yearolds, making schools the focus of community crime prevention strategies, and developing community based schemes to support and "parent" young men who have no family support. Presented yesterday to the

first meeting of a new ministe-rial group on juveniles, it also found that young Asians are less likely to commit offences or use drugs than either whites or Afro-Caribbeans; that the peak age for offending among men is 21, and 16 for women. Toung People and Crime, Research and Planning Unit, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London

CHARLES ARTHUR

over Asia have forced Richard Branson and his Virgin Global Challenger team to delay their attempt to fly around the world in a giant helium-filled bal-

forced to the ground. Martin Harris, a meteoroconditions in the jetstream are just right. At the moment the winds would push the balloon north. There the air is so cold

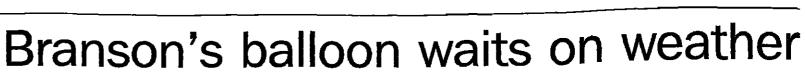
you take it out of the fridge." However, this news has not caused a depression to cross Mr

bad place to wait in."

Henk Brink, a Dutchman who had intended to launch a rival attempt from the Netherlands on Sunday. Some reports suggest Mr Brink may abandon his

Mr Branson and his team-

designed the balloon, said they feared ice more than any oth-"Lightning just makes a hole in the balloon," said Mr Lindstrand, "you would have to come down, but it won't kill you." This was proven in the of the first balloon attempts to





Up but not yet away: Richard Branson (left) bides his time with a practice hot-air balloon flight over Marrakesh yesterday Photograph: John Voos

Block on parents urged

WENDY BERLINER Education Correspondent

Schools should be allowed to han pupils whose parents attack staff or threaten violence even if the child has done nothing to warrant exclusion, Britain's biggest head teachers' organi-

sation says today. Head teachers fed up of being attacked by parents who object to them disciplining their children ask the Government today why they should be expected to educate the children of abusive parents.

Last year, 69 members of the National Association of Head Teachers were assaulted or violently abused. Twelve have claims before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

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The NAHT also says it of Philip Lawrence, the Lonshould be allowed to refuse to take in violent pupils excluded from other schools or to reinstate violent or disruptive pupils of their own unless there is a favourable report on them

and the school feels it can cope. The NAHT makes its points in a response to a Government review of the rules governing the management of disruptive and violent pupils by schools.

The heads are complaining that the review does not include the activities of violent parents nor the problems of schools forced to admit pupils who have disrupted other schools.

The issue of thuggish and dangerous behaviour in schools has been given fresh promi-

don head teacher stabbed when he went to the aid of one of his The association claims in its

submission to the Government that the problem is rapidly reaching "nightmare proportions" as the system for dealing with excluded pupils breaks down. Schools are being forced by their local education authorities to admit teenage "thugs" whose needs could not be met in mainstream schools.

Problems are compounded when local appeal committees overturn school governors' de-cisions to exclude pupils, the association says. The NAHT is calling for appeal committees to be chaired by someone legally *oualified.*

Adverse weather conditions

loon, at least until next Tuesday. Computer forecasts by the Meteorological Office, in Brack-

nell, Berkshire, of the weather at 30,000 feet for the next four days suggest that once the balloon had crossed Europe, strong winds would blow it so far north that it would quickly take on up to two tonnes of ice, and be

logical expert from the University of North London, and an adviser to the team, said yes-

terday: "We have to wait until conditions in the jetstream are he said. "And Morocco is not a Poor weather has also delayed

that as soon as it came down ...into more damp air it would ice up - just like an ice lolly when attempt altogether.

Branson's warm front. "Soon- member Per Lindstrand, who

weather phenomenon: 1950s, when lightning struck one cross the Atlantic. The pilot's

Crash Chinook carried no black box

The absence of a £10,000 cockpit voice recorder hindered and prolonged the investigation into the helicopter crash that killed 29 people including Northern Ireland counter-terrorism experts, a crash investigator said

yesterday. A senior Department of Transport inspector, Anthony Cable, told the inquiry into the tragedy that "black box" accident data recorders and cock-

craft crash investigations. But the Mark II Chinook helicopter was fitted with neither when it ploughed into the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994. The crash killed 10 high-ranking RUC officers, nine Army intelligenœ experts, six MI5 experts and the

four-man RAF crew. Mr Cable, of the DoT's Air

> ... in strictly diagnostic towns. Marries and Enterney attorness orders of long. It has been westerned that the

pit voice recorders commonly yielded "major benefits" in air-recorder section estimates that a CVR [cockpit voice recorder] typically costs \$10,000 to \$15,000, including the unit and its installation." While it was preferable to have both, a cockpit voice recorder alone could vield much information, and had been used to great effect in several investigations.

Mr Cable, on his third day in

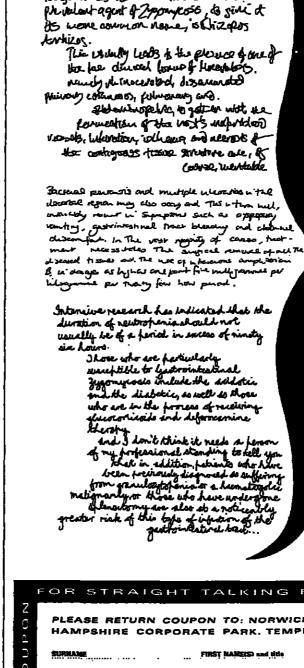
what he had been able to establish. The doomed machine hit Beinn na Lice, a hill behind the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse, at a height of 810ft, and travelling at about 150 knots at the point of first impact. At the point of impact, it was climbing at a 20 degree angle relative to the horizontal.

Engine and instrument indications all suggested normal op-Accidents Investigation Branch. the witness box, summarised erations. Almost all parts of the

flight control mechanical systems were retrieved with no evidence of pre-impact failure, although the possibility of a control system jam could not be "positively" ruled out.

Earlier, Mr Cable said a study of the helicopter's navigation computer by the manufacturers, Racal, showed the navigation system was working "perfectly" and the pilots had been using it properly.





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international

German inferno: Cause of Lubeck fire a mystery but police suspect Nazis are involved

Hostel blaze kills 10 migrants

IMRE KARACS

At least 10 people, including four children, were killed and scores injured yesterday in a huge blaze which gutted a house occupied by asylum seekers in the Baltic port of Lübeck. Although German police left open the possibility that the blaze was caused by accident, they questioned three young men on suspicion of arson.

"We are following up every avenue. Everything from technical fault to arson is conceivable." said Winfried Tabarelli. the head of Lübeck's criminal police. The three suspects, one of whom was described as a skinhead, were all from Grevesmühlen, 20 miles east across the border that used to separate the two Germanies.

They were known to the police, but not for neo-Nazi activities. Nevertheless, the authorities did not rule out a racial motive, and the Mayor of Lübeck, Michael Bouteiller, called for a demonstration against neo-Nazi violence. Last night some 4,000 people, many carrying flowers, gathered in the centre of the city to commemorate the victims.

The blaze erupted shortly before 4am and spread rapidly through the four-storey building, turning into a fireball as it consumed the timber in the converted loft. The house, like similar refugee hostels across Germany, was packed with people, many of them probably ilegal immigrants. The building had 45 registered residents, mostly Zaireans, Togolese, Syrians, Lebanese and Poles, but fire-fighters counted well

Apart from the 10 dead, 55 people were injured, suffering from burns, suffocation and

windows in panic. Five people were last night in critical condition. So intense were the flames that rescue workers were for a long time unable to enter the building, fearing that the structure would collapse.

As stunned neighbours last night gathered round the charred ruin of what used to be a solid turn-of-the-century building, the cause of the fire remained unclear. Some city of-ficials claimed to have evidence, not confirmed by police, that the flames engulfed the house from



victim blames arsonists

several directions simultaneously, indicating the fire was started deliberately.

If they turn out to be right, and if the motive proves to be racist, then yesterday's events will go down in history as the most murderous attack yet by neo-Nazis. Until now that infamy was claimed by the town of Solingen near Cologne, where two Turkish women and three girls perished on the night of 29 May 1993 in a fire started by right-wing extremists.

That attack, followed by violent demonstrations by Turks, shocked Germany and the rest extremists.

fractures as they leapt out of the of the world. The four people involved received sentences of between 10 and 15 years, and the authorities clamped down on neo-Nazis.

> But while many extremists were forced underground or abroad, racist attacks have persisted, on a smaller scale. These are often perpetrated by freelance hooligans rather than organised neo-Nazis.

Lübeck itself has had its share of trouble. During Passover in 1994 its synagogue was the first in Germany to draw the Nazi fire since the Second World War. A year later, a different set of thugs returned, setting the synagogue's store room

The countryside around Lübeck is a hotbed of neo-Nazi activity. Day-trippers from the impoverished east go there looking for trouble, harassing foreigners and spreading propaganda. Not far from the city ies the town of Mölln, notorious for one of the first attacks on immigrants in what became a vogue after German unification. In 1992 a Turkish woman and two girls were burnt to death in a manner that was to become the hallmark of neo-Nazi terror.

But though the statistics seemingly indicate no break in the pattern, the violence abated after Solingen, Reports of fires at immigrant homes appear in the German press almost daily. There was one such incident yesterday at the town of Burgwedel, 120 miles south of Lübeck, where arsonists tried to set a home for Yugoslav immigrants on fire. But this may well turn out to have been the work of members of the same community, just as most attacks on Turkish targets these days are blamed on Kurdish



Fanning the flames: Firemen bring the Lübeck blaze under control in an incident which has again highlighted attacks on asylum-seekers Photograph: Michael Probst/AP

Court bans Mitterrand doctor's book

MARY DEJEVSKY

In a landmark decision, a Paris judge yesterday banned distribution of a book by the late President François Mitterrand's doctor and ordered the publisher to pay a heavy fine for copies already sold. The judge, Jacqueline Cochard, described the book, The Great Secret, as a "particularly serious intrusion" into the family's privacy and in-structed the seizure of all remaining copies.

In the book, Dr Claude Gubler accused Mitterrand of lying about his cancer since it was diagnosed in 1981 and said that, in his opinion, the late president was "incapable" of ex-ercising his official functions for the last six months he was in of-fice. He later clarified that he had meant physically rather than mentally incapable.

The judgment delighted the French political establishment, which had subjected Dr Gubler to a verbal lynching since an extract from the book appeared in the magazine Paris-Match earlier this week. Leading politicians of all parties had rushed to deplore what they said was a breach of medical confidentiality and anathematised Dr Gubier variously as a "traitor". "liar" and "criminal".

He was also denounced by professional medical associations and risks being struck off.

Dr Gubler was Mitterrand's doctor for 13 years and wrote the book jointly with a former journalist at Paris-Match. It chronicles the progress of the president's cancer from its diagnosis six months after he came to office in 1981 until 1994

when Dr Gubler left the president's service. Until 1992. Dr Gubler revealed, the diagnosis had been classified a state secret and all reference to it was omitted from the regular medical reports Mitterrand had undertaken to publish.

The case for the ban was brought by members of Mit-terrand's family: his widow, Danielle, their two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert, his mistress of 20 years, Anne Pin-geot, and their daughter, Mazarine. They instituted proceedings immediately after the first excerpt appeared on Tues-day. The book was published on

Wednesday. As well as being banned from distributing the book further, the publisher, Editions Plon, must also pay a fine of 1,000 francs (£133) for each copy sold - more than 10 times the 98-franc cover price.

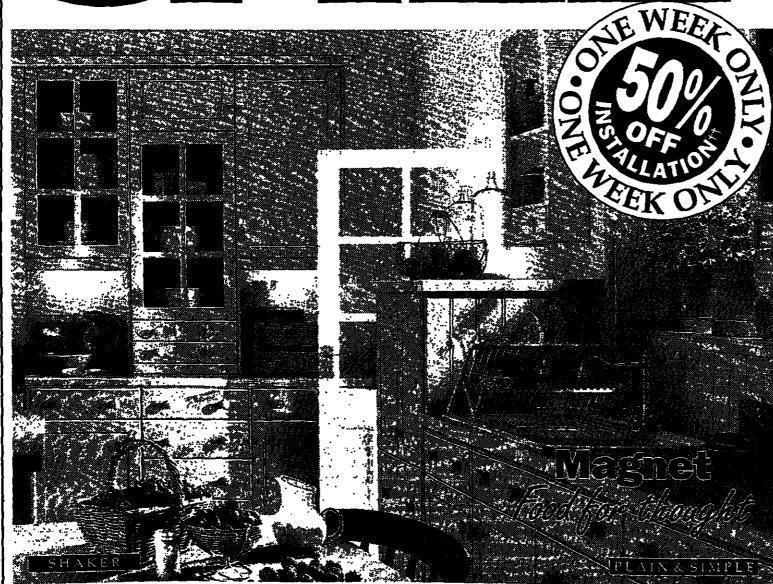
Mrs Cochard based her judgment on what she said was a person's absolute right to privacy. "Every individual," she said. "whatever his rank, has the right to respect for his private life." The book she said was "a particularly serious intrusion into ... the private family life of Presi-dent Mitterrand". She added that the right extended to the individual's family.

She said the offence was all the more intolerable because the book appeared within days of President Mitterrand's death.

Dr Gubler's counsel had argued that the "freedom of every Frenchman to know about the health of the head of state" took precedence over the protection of personal privacy.

The doctor and his publishers have launched an appeal.

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IN BRIEF

Nigerian ruler's son killed in air crash

Lagos - A presidential jet carrying Ibrahim Abacha, the eldest son of the Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha, crashed on Wednesday night. killing all 14 people aboard. The pilot had reported engine problems shortly before the crash near Kano airport, in the north of the country, the National News Agency of Nigeria said. An unknown group calling itself United From for Nigeria's Liberation claimed responsibility for the crash .-Igencies

Serb 'killer' held

Karlsruhe - A Serb who has been living in Germany for nearly three years has been arrested on suspicion of murdering 27 Muslims in 1992, the chief federal prosecutor's office said. The man, apparently a Bosnian Serb identified only as 34-yearold Novislav D, was arrested on Wednesday in Munich.

Matinee idol dies

Hyderabad - N T Rama Rao, the matinee idol turned political leader died of a massive heart attack, only months after being turned out of office by his son-in-law, Chandrababu Naidu, Rama Rao, 73, had led his Telugu Desam Party to a landslide victory in 1994 elections in the state of Andhra

Obituary, Page 16 Death train arrest

Lusaka - The driver of one of two passenger trains that col-lided close to the Zambian border town of Livingstone, killing at least 22 people on Wednes-day, has been arrested. "According to Zambia Railways management, the driver disobeyed instructions, leading to the collision," a Southern Province official said. Reuter

Ministers quit New Delhi - An \$18m

(£11.8m) bribery scandal reached the core of the Indian government as President Shankar Dayal Sharma accepted the resignations of the Agri-culture Minister, Balram Jakhar, the Human Resources Development Minister, Madhavrao Scindia, and the Minister. Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Vidya Charan Shukla. Reuter

'No' to coalition

Ankara - The Motherland Party leader, Mesut Yilmaz, rejected an offer from the Islamist Welfare Party to form a coalition, effectively ending the Islamists' hopes of coming to

Rocking to fame

New York - David Bowie, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Shirelles, Jefferson Airplane, Pink Floyd, the Velvet Underground and the late blues balladeer Little Willie John were inducted into the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame on Wednesday

Juppé to spend £2bn reviving inner cities

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, yesterday put forward a plan intended to boost deprived urban areas.

Mr Juppé announced a development programme for 700 deprived urban areas across France, and a subsidy of 15bn francs (£2bn) to help to fund it, making it one of the largest state projects ever.

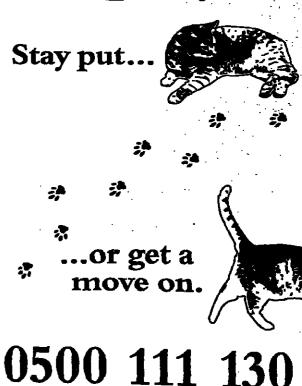
The programme, which had been promised by Jacques Chirac during his campaign for the presidency last year, was given special priority after a rash of rioting and unrest in the suburbs of French cities over the

The measures include the

establishment of 20 enterprise zones, which will be exempt from local and business taxes for five years; the provision of 4,000 extra police; new units for repeat juvenile offenders: and the creation of 100,000 jobs over four years - to be funded in part by the state and restricted to those between the ages of 18 and 25. One in four under-25s in France is unemployed, and the proportion on many hous-

ing estates is much higher. In line with Mr Chirac's New Year pledge to make government ministers more accessible and more visible in the provinces, Mr Juppé chose to introduce his plan in the southern port city of Marseilles against the a backdrop of some of the worst slums in France.





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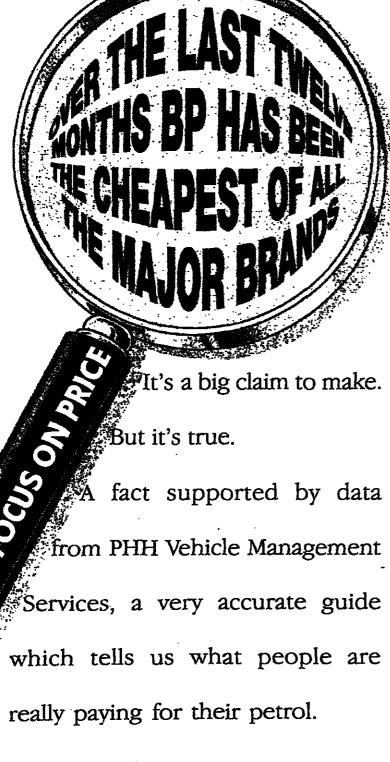
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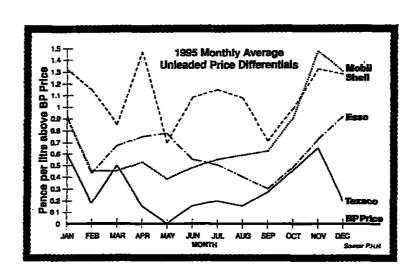
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Chechen crisis: The bloody battle for Pervomayskoye is over, but the war between Moscow and Caucasian rebels goes on

Guns fall silent, but the truth is elusive

PHIL REEVES near Pervomayskoye

As darkness fell, the landscape of northern Dagestan, pristine under a fresh fall of snow, fell silent after a day of intermittent bombing which had finally re-duced the village to ruins.

But the counting was still going on. Boris Yeltsin said 153 Chechen fighters had been killed, and 28 captured; the Russian forces had lost only 26 soldiers; and 82 hostages were freed while 18 were unaccounted for, possibly escaped. But these figures must remain

at the very least, highly dubious. If the President is right then it gives the lie to statements by his Federal Security Service which on Wednesday said Russian forces were finally finishing off the operation with "massive fire" after the Chechens had massacred "practically all" of their hostages, apart from 28 who were either freed or escaped.

Mr Yeltsin's claims were also at odds with a figure of 42 freed hostages given by his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and added to a day of confusion which owed much to the Kremlin's decision to expel journalists from the vicinity of Pervomayskoye for the last phase of the assault.

The hostages themselves. taken after the Chechen Lone Wolf group seized a hospital in Kizlyar, were far from convinced that the Russian soldiers had their best interests at heart. Dima Alexanderovich, 38, eyes red with fatigue, said he escaped after breaking through Russian lines with a band of Chechens. He denied Russian claims that the Chechens executed any of the hostages. "They never shot anyone," he said, "they didn't abuse us, they did not even

Mr Alexanderovich, a driver at the hospital at Kiziyar, told Agence France-Presse that he never felt at risk from the Chechens but from his rescuers. The Russians almost killed him on numerous occasions, he said. "The last two days they were simply carpet bombing us. There's not a house left

undamaged. Kurban Ibargimovich, 31, said that on Wednesday when the Russians intensified bombthrough their lines to Chechnya and he went with them. "There was total panic. No one thought on three sides and it seemed there was no hope," he said. "They were firing everything machine-guns, grenade launch-

ers, everything. It was hell." The truth about the death toll, and the conduct of the operation, remains elusive. Mr Yeltsin also said that the reason the assault on the small village was so protracted was that it concealed an underground base ments, a bizarre claim.

What was clear though was that the Russians carried through the threat to use massive force to end the 10-day crisis.Throughout Wednesday night, the Russians pounded the village with Grad missiles and heavy artillery in the most intense assault of the last three days. Yesterday morning the bombardment continued intermittently, interrupted by occasional volleys of machine-gun fire before dying away in the

Last night details of the casualties caused by the bombing were trickling in. Russian TV crews who were taken to within 500m of the village by the military authorities, saw 30 bodies, apparently Chechen fighters. They said that some of the guerrillas had broken out of Pervomayskoye, which was reduced to rubble, and had been mowed down after penetrating Russian

A Russian soldier also produced a video tape of what appeared to be about 20 Chechens taken prisoner by the Russians.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports circulated that the rebel leader, Salman Raduyev, had escaped from the blitzed village along with 100 fellow fighters.

the Russians suffered another humiliation when Chechen rebels managed to attack the forces from the rear by mounting a raid in nearby Sovietskoye, reportedly killing three

Mr Yeltsin will do his best to squeeze political advantage from this affair, presenting himself as a decisive leader willing to crush Chechen terrorism. But the operation took too long and was too badly bungled ing the Chechens tried to break for him to gain much credit.

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Ship hijackers play to media circus

The drama of a Black Sea ferry, the Avrasya, hijacked by pro-Chechen gunmen holding more than 100 Russian hostages, was due to reach a media-focused climax late last night as she steamed towards Istanbul and the promise of a big news conference for the hijackers to condemn Russia's conduct of the war in Chechnya. Overtaken by the events in

estan and under pressure by the Turkish authorities and the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, the hijackers dropped their threat to blow up the ship if Russia did not end its assault on Chechen militants who had been holding Russians hostage in the village of Pervomayskoye.

control. We will come to Istanbul and make our press statement," said the chief hijacker. Muhammed Tokcan, in negotiations to end the crisis, a tape of which was played on Turkish

Turkey's Transport Minister

said the security forces would prefer the Avrasya not to travel through the Bosphorus to Istanbul, because it was rigged to explode. It was hijacked on Tuesday night in the Turkish port of Trabzon. The minister suggested the

ship put in at Eregli, which the Avrasya had reached at nightfail. But a Turkish official said "no decision has been made to stop them. We are seeking a peaceful settlement. Other possibilities are only a last resort".

The Foreign Ministry dismissed an offer from President Boris Yeltsin to send Russian special forces to help storm the ferry, whose Turkish captain says it is carrying 114 Russian passengers. The 40-man crew is almost all Turkish, as are another 43 passengers.

Television stations have turned the crisis into a live 21hour drama, so much so that officials in charge of negotiations had trouble getting through on shin-to-shore radio telephones. Our media is unbelievable. unstoppable, out of control, lamented an official. The hiiackers also have an unusual attitude: the ferry captain said they have been zapping through the channels on a television set on the bridge to check on the

coverage they are getting. They faxed Hurriya newspaper to complain about a headline saying "the terror of

Chechnya" had spread to Turkey, and an editor at Curchuriyet had to defend his judgement that the hijacking of innocents was terrorism. "You talk about us as terrorists. If you are a journalist, you have to be honourable and tell the truth," railed a hijacker who, though he spoke Turkish, said he was a

Chechen. It is thought that two of the hijackers may be Chechens and another from Abkhazia, a Muslim part of Georgia. The five others are thought to be Turkish chizens of Caucasian descent, including the leader, Mr Tokcan, whose father is as an

imam in their native Ahkhazia. All have fought in the Caucasus, and Mr Tokcan, who got his military training as a Turkish commando fighting the Kurds, is a close friend of the

Chechen hero Shamil Basayev. Mr Tokcan's Chechen fiancée is said to have been killed during Russian attacks on Chechnya. Turks of Caucasian origin

have voiced sympathy with the hijackers, helped by the fact that the only casualty so far has been Turkish harbour official slightwounded in the storming of the Avrasya. Most other Turks also sympathise with their Chechen fellow Muslims, but opinion-formers and columnists seem to be reserving judgement until the outcome is

Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister, has also kept a low profile, leaving the crisis in the hands of a team in the security directorate. Turkey is still trying to form a new government after the indecisive

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elections on 24 December.

Assault 'reckless' about hostages

BRIAN KILLEN

Moscow — *Izvestia* said yesterday that special forces were reckless and disorganised when they launched the assault on Chechen rebels in Pervomayskoye this week.

The newspaper's correspondent, Valery Yakov, who spent three days near the battle zone defying a ban on reporters, de-scribed scenes of chaos, confusion and disinformation in which troops showed scant regard for the lives of the

"To call this an operation to save hostages is, to say the least, cynical," Mr Yakov wrote. "Those who remain alive are not those alleged to have been saved, but those lucky enough

Mr Yakov reached the village of Pervomayskoye with two other Russian journalists by slipping across the nearby border from Chechnya. "You would need a rich imagination to talk about the borders being sealed with a reliable cordon."

I-H firs de

They joined Russian forces in trenches only a few hundred metres from rebel positions on the eve of the storming of the village, which started on Monday with an attack by heli-

copters and artillery.

The three were ejected on Wednesday after being detained and questioned when they ran into the Federal Security Service director, Mikhail Barsukov, who was in command of the operation.

Mr Yakov dismissed official statements that the storming was necessary because the rebels had shot dead six of the hostages as well as a group of Dagestani elders seeking to negotiate. "Nothing of the kind happened in Pervomayskoye,"

he said.
"All of the firing by the federal forces landed not so much around the rebels as around the hostages," Mr Yakov said "What was actually happen-

ing resembled freeing of hostages least of all. This was a real military operation to storm an enemy village using all forces

"I trust you. I accept your Yeltsin vows to bring war home to Dudayev

HELEN WOMACK

President Boris Yeltsin gave an ominous signal yesterday that, with the operation to clear Pervomayskoye of Chechen rebels more or less over, Russia would now step up the war in Chechnya itself with a direct attack on the rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"We taught a good lesson to Dudayev," the President said, briefing reporters on the fourday battle on the Dagestan border. "Now we have to deal a blow to Dudayev's strongholds where there is no civilian population in order to put an end to terrorism on Russian soil."

On the ferry seizure by pro-Chechen gunmen in Turkey, he added: "Terrorism has spread to Turkey, which means one can wait no longer. This is already international terrorism."

Evidently Mr Yeltsin has it in mind to strike at the villages in the mountains of southern Chechnya where the Muslim militants have been based since being pushed out of their capital, Grozny, last year. From here, they carried out a terrorist raid on the southern Russian town of Budyennovsk last June as well as the latest attack, which began in the Dagestani town of Kizlyar last week and ended with 100 hostages being dragged to Pervomayskoye.

It is perhaps too carly to draw conclusions as to how Russians will now view their President. He is more hawkish, not only in response to the hostage crisis but also as a result of the victory of his Communist and nationalist opponents in December's elections. When he launched the assault on Pervomayskoye, an poll showed Mus-covites almost equally divided on the wisdom of being tougher with the Chechens.

The new parliament, which on Wednesday elected the Communist Gennady Seleznyov as Speaker, is to spare the government a vote of no-confidence, restricting itself to issuing a statement urging an "adequate response" to the Chechen rebellion.



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Tomorrow we will feature another botel in The Independent and give you your final token.

Pictured is The Riverside Hotel in Monmouth, Wales

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Friend of Europe is Greek PM

ANDREW GUMBEL

rechiless,

Greece's ruling party last night chose its leading dissident, Costas Simitis, as the country's new Prime Minister, signalling a major shift away from the charismatic populism of his predecessor, Andreas Papandreou, in favour of reform and closer co-operation with the European Union.

Mr Similis, a 59-year-old economist and commercial lawyer with broad experience of government, beat off challenges from two Papandreou loyalists, the party apparatchik Akis Tsochadzopoulos and Defence Minister Gerassimos Arsenis, in a tense two-round ballot of Pasok's parliamentary party.

Despite being frozen out of the government and the Pasok delaying recognition of Maceleadership for the past four donia, and seemed bent on up-

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Today is the single most im-

portant day so far for the peace

mplementation force in Bosnia.

Most of the actions stipulated

under the Dayton peace agree-

ment have been completed with

surprising ease and good will:

only one, the exchange of pris-

oners of war, is being delayed

until the last moment. If, by

midnight tonight, 30 days after

the agreement came into effect,

the prisoners are not released.

then all three parties will be in

ter is 120 mujahedin - militant

Muslim fighters from Islamic

Under the Dayton agreement,

they should have left Bosnia by

13 January. Yesterday a British

company of 100 troops and

five Warrior fighting vehicles

The other outstanding mat-

breach of the agreement.

Gomji Vakuf

I-For faces

first Bosnia

deadlines

months, Mr Simitis was the most popular of the three can-didates and commanded the most international respect. He is widely seen as the man most likely to lead Pasok to victory at the general elections slated for October 1997.

*Our country should become a substantive contributor to European developments, play a role in the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean and create bonds of co-operation that will contribute to our development," Mr Simitis said in his hustings speech to Pasok's central committee earlier this week. This was a far cry from the

rhetoric of Mr Papandreou, who until his illness and inca-pacitation last November held up EU development funds, created an international furore by

holding Greece's place in the world by turning his nose up at anyone who disagreed with him.

Political sources say Mr Simitis is likely to invite his leading dissident friends, the so-called "Gang of Four", back into gov-ernment, appointing the fiery former European Affairs minister, Theodore Pangalos, to the Foreign Ministry and bringing the former European Com-missioner, Vasso Papandreou. into his economic team.

Mr Simitis would also like to transform Pasok from a populist movement into a mainstream centre-left party, along the lines of Tony Blair's Labour Party. This may prove more difficult. wever, as the party leadership remains nominally in Mr Papandreou's hands and elections for a new party leader are not

expected until June. Mr Simitis will fight hard to



to lead Pasok to victory

appoint one of his loyalists to

is to stay united.
Mr Simitis had been favourite

to win the contest from the outset, but faced a far rougher ride than expected from Mr Tsochadzopoulos, who garnered considerable support fol-

lowing Mr Papandreou's resignation on Monday night. Thanks to last-minute campaigning by his close colleague, the Cabinet Secretary, Antonis Livanis, Mr Tsochadzopoulos was level-pegging with Mr Simi-tis on the first ballot with 53 votes, followed by Mr Arsenis on 50 and a fourth candidate, Yannis Charalambopoulos, on On the second ballot, how-

know that Pasok's best chance is to stay united.

Mr Simitis had been favourite

Livanis, who has virtually run the country during the past two years as Mr Papandreou's health has failed, is almost certainly over. More junior acolytes, how-ever, were quick to switch allegiances, among them Elisabeth

Papazoi, a close adviser of Mr Papandreou's wife Dimitra. Dimitra will almost certainly be the biggest loser. She will lose her job as head of the Prime Minister's private office and can abandon all ambitions to enter

parliament for Pasok. Mr Simitis's victory is not likely to cheer Mr Papandreou either. The two had not spoken since Mr Simitis was fired as industry minister last September. "According to members of his entourage," a European diplomat reported, "Mr Papandreou's only remaining wish is to live long enough to make

Mystery birth of Tex-Mex drug lord

Garcia

Juan Garcia Abrego, the alleged Mexican cocaine baron, was born again - on the other side of the US-Mexican border from the site of his first appearance in the world. Gar-cia Abrego, who was captured near Monterrey on Sunday and hastily deported to a delighted United States the next day, has two birth certificates. Legal wrangling over them may determine his future.

His birth was first registered in Cameron County, Texas, and he is therefore, American. Mexico's interior ministry insisted, producing faxed copies of the 1944 registration.

But just over the border, a Matamoros civil registry official said little Juan's birth certificate shows he was born "on September 13, 1944, in this municipality''

Que pasa? Along the Rio Grande, parents often register their children on both sides of the porous border. If Garcia Abrego can prove he is Mexi-can he may be able to challenge his deportation to the US, where he starred on the FBI's most-wanted list.

Keen to wash their hands of him, Mexican officials are searching for his American passport, asserting that he "didn't have a Mexican pass-port, at least [not] a real one." Garcia Abrego's US nation-

ality, they say, was the reason he was so speedily dispatched to a Texas jail after his arrest. Government critics, however, say the haste had more to do with getting him out of Mexico before he could either bribe anyone or make statements that could embarrass officials.

The Prince of Wales is not the I only heir to a European throne under fire for hunting. Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands is ducking the same bullets. Dutch newspapers have been running advertisements calling on the Crown Prince to lay down his weapons, which he usually points at deer and wild boar.

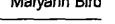
"The heavy responsibility you bear as our future king cannot be combined with spreading death and destruction amongst defenceless animals," said the Foundation For Critical Wildlife Care. By the start of the week, the

prince had received several

hundred faxes urging him to

give up the pastime. Little hunt-

catching on to the joke. Marvann Bird



Abrego: Future

hangs on his nationality

developed Netherlands, but

stocks of boar and deer are

maintained in the forests of Het

Loo palace - and 170 of each

Gaza's best-known female

grenades at Israeli army jeeps.

In Nîma al-Helo's last attack, in

1972, she lost an arm and an eyc. Now she is hurling herself

into the campaign for a seat in

women among the 676 candidates chasing 88 seats on the council. Other statistics: she was

detained for a total of 14 years.

and spent 27 months on the run.

she said, were Israeli prison cells, and in a society where

marriage and children are expected of women, Ms Helo has other priorities. "I have an agenda," she told Reuters: "To

educate women, to protect the

families of martyrs, to rebuild

families destroyed by the Israeli

Twenty-five years on, Al Gore still remembers Dr Trebla

Erog, a Swedish gynaecologist.

At a Nashville dinner to raise

money for Jerry Thompson, a

reporter at the Tennesseean who

has cancer, the Vice-President

recalled his days as a young re-

porter for the newspaper. Mr

Thompson, he said, initiated new staff by phoning them, pos-

ing as a funeral director, and of-

fering information for an

obituary. The name of the de-

ceased would be the reporter's

Albert Gore dutifully took

down the information on Tre-

bla Erog. And Mr Gore admit-

ted. "I wasn't even close" to

name spelled backwards.

occupation."

Her university classrooms,

the Palestinian legislature. Ms Helo is one of only 28

species were shot last year.



Safety first: US troops in Bosnia at a crater caused by a mine-clearing tank hitting a road mine Photograph: Reuter | ing is actually done in the

manded action, and I-For will

The four kilometre "zone of separation" straddling the report anything it hears. ceasefire line and the new frontier between the Muslim/Croat and Serb entities within Bosnia has been cleared of troops and all the mined areas marked, as agreed. More than a thousand minefield records have been

The implementation force, I-For, has moved to secure the enter the assembly area at guarding key installations to shifts westward to the Anvil.

areas to be handed over under The biggest, 400 square

miles, which I-For calls "the Anvil", is centred on Sipovo, where the British 4th Armoured Brigade has taken up residence. It is a sorry, bleak wilderness, occupied by I-For troops and the Bosnian Croat army. A few civilians remain, including the population of two Croat villages. They lived, untroubled, under

Bosnian Serb rule. In the summer, the Serbs were pushed out. By mid-March, they will have returned under the terms of the Dayton agreement. Brigadier Richard Dannatt, commanding 4th Brigade, is trying to persuade the Croats to stay, and they may well do so.

countries - in the Bihac area. With its work cut out to ensure the Dayton terms are fulfilled, I-For has avoided being dragged into investigating the allegations of a mass grave of warheaded into the area to percrime victims near Liubiia. south of Prijedor. That lies outsuade the *mujahedin* to leave for Zagreb. The problem is where side its mandate, but it is a delmanter, Muslim-Croat side has de-

> Last night the British Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, arrived to see the biggest deployment of British forces for real since the Gulf war. More than 10,000 have now arrived and many of those are heading for the Anvil. Just before they reach the Anvil, they

Kupres, a bullet-spattered town stop them being wrecked before on a windy, rock-strewn plain. For years it was was out of bounds to the UN. Now dark dam which still provides power for Banja Luka, the Serb city green vehicles with "I-For" in to the north. white paint and inverted black

used in the Gulf - cruise the road freely. Today Sir Peter will fly over the zone of separation in a helicopter and visit his troops at Sipovo. They have fanned out across the Anvil. and are also

the Serbs return. At Bocac the are guarding a hydro-electric

Vs - the recognition symbol At Gornji Vakuf, the headquarters of the British-led south-west division, plans are afoot to move to Banja Luka. Gornji Vakuf was right on the front line during the war between Muslims and Croats but is now on the rim as the centre



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Iraq wants to talk about oil-for-food sale

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

Iraq yesterday announced that as part of plans to create a domocratic atmosphere", its exe-cutioners would no longer cut_ off criminals' ears. The government also told the United Nations it wanted to discuss a deal to sell \$2bn (£1.3bn) of oil to buy food and medicine for its

people.

The two moves were seen by some diplomats at the UN as signs of compromise in an effort to relieve the suffering of Iraq's population five years af-ter the allied air offensive in the Gulf war destroyed the infrastructure. Latest reports from aid workers in Iraq say UN sanc-

tions have since reduced most of its people to penury and hunger while President Saddam sein's clique remains in

comfort and in power.
The Justice Minister, Shabib al-Malki, yesterday said Iraq had abolished or suspended laws prescribing punishments such as severing ears or branding the foreheads of criminals. The amputation of hands would also be stopped. "Several laws curbing the freedom of the citizens have been abolished in the light of instructions given by President Saddam Hussein for the prevalence of a democratic atmosphere in Iraq," the minister added.

The measures appeared to be cathing criticism of Iraq's hunan-rights record by Max van der Stoel, the special rapporteur, or investigator, appointed by the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. He had also criticised Iraq for refusing to alleviate the plight of its people by taking savantage of UN Security Conacil Resolution 986, which permits it to sell oil in exchange for humanitarian supplies purchased and delivered under UN observation. Under its provisions, Iraq could raise \$2bn for food and medicine every six months but could not use the money for weapons

or soldiers' wages. Up to now, Iraq had refused to accept the terms, claiming they amounted to an infringe ment of sovereignty. But the UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was briefing diplomats in New York last night about new overtures from Iraq suggesting it might come to terms with a limited oil sale.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, has written to Mr Boutros-Ghali saying "we would be prepared to enter a dialogue with you provided that no conditions were placed upon

International oil markets wavered on the news of a possible Iraqi sale, which could push crude prices lower. Newspapers

that a delegation led by the head of Iraq's chambers of commerce, Zuhair Abd al-Ghatur Yunis, had travelled to Egypt to discuss plans to import food-stuffs and medicines.

However, British and American diplomats at the UN are likely to lead moves for a tough line in the Security Council against any Iraqi effort to cut an oil-for-food deal outside the terms of Resolution 986. Mr Aziz recently insisted Iraq still found the resolution unacceptable, making it unlikely that countries such as Russia and France, which broadly favour the relaxation of sanctions, will be able to find much room to

This week the press in neigh bouring Jordan carried an intriguing item suggesting that life may be difficult for Mr Aziz himself in the "democratic atmosphere" of Baghdad.

According to the reports, security men recently refused to let Mr Aziz leave Iraq with his wife and children. Officials at the frontier between Iraq and Jordan contacted President Saddam's office, which ordered that Mr Aziz could travel alone but could not take his family. The Deputy Prime Minister returned to Baghdad.

Mr Aziz is a member of Iraq's Nestorian Christian minority and is fluent in English. He has functioned for years as a loyal interpreter to foreign diplomats of President Saddam's policies.

But even the strongest loyalties are being tested by five years of consistent military and economic pressure. An Iraqi military intelligence official, Colonel Shakir al-Juburi, is reported to have defected to Jordan after escaping from Iraq on a forged passport. He is the most senior intelligence officer to flee since the escape of Rafiq al-Samarrai, the former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who recently shared his experiences with viewers of a BBC television

Ditto.

You need to eat a variety of foods to get all the iron you need each day. If you're a normal healthy person, a lean, grilled rump steak (170g) will supply you with half your daily requirement. To get the same amount from raw spinach, you'd have to eat 680g of it. That's because your body absorbs at least twice as much iron from red meat than from an equivalent weight of spinach. Red meat also helps you absorb more iron from other foods, including spinach."

So, unless you have a very big appetite for spinach, what better excuse do you need to enjoy a tender, juicy steak?

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Jerusalem is different. Ballot boxes are different from those on the West Bank and votes are to be counted in Ramallah, to

Palestinian commercial area, Majeda el-Batsh, sister of one of the candidates, Ahmed el-Batsh, had found a different way to campaign. She organised

Israelis turn Jerusalem into a foreign country

PATRICK COCKBURN

A rally by Palestinian candidates at the Israeli checkpoint on the Mount of Olives was the first weeks to campaign," she said political event of the day. We told the taxi-driver to take us there, explaining we were going to a political demonstration. Another passenger, wearing the skullcap of a religious Jew, misunderstood our intentions.

He asked if we were going to a demonstration of Israeli settlers, protesting against a Pales-tinian election taking place in Jerusalem. He said he was a leader of the youth section of the right-wing Likud party, "but I am under strict orders not to get involved in anything

Introducing himself as Jeremy Shock, an immigrant from Australia now working in the Jewish Agency, he said he was against the withdrawal from the West Bank. "I was told by Bibi Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, to do nothing." It was a confirmation that the Israeli right will not dare disrupt the elections tomorrow. It is too nervous of reminding voters about its role in the upsurge of violence which culminated in the killing of Yitzhak Rabin.

As we dropped Mr Stock, he predicted trouble if the government started to compro-mise. A few minutes later, on the Mount of Olives, Hanan Ashrawi, the best-known independent standing for the Pales-tinian Council, was complaining about Israel sealing off Jerusalem from the West Bank. Standing near the barrier where troops check Palestinians entering from the east, she said: "Jerusalem is being strangled."

Israel has gone to bizarre lengths to emphasise the poll in give the impression that Pales-tinians in Jerusalem are postal voters living in a foreign land. In Salahudin Street, the main

supporters to hand out carnations with the candidate's picture. "The problem is there has been no election for 27 years

Her brother, a former teacher who spent eight years in jail, is well known in the area and stands a good chance of winning one of the seven seats, though two are reserved for Christians. For many years a Fatah leader in Jerusalem, he is standing as an independent,

Yasser Arafat's decision to ignore many former Fatah mili tants and include other notables angered local Fatah leaders.



poli gives him 80% of vote

Some, like Mr Batsh, decided to stand anyway. This is hardly likely to damage Mr Arafar's chances of winning the presidency, though: a poll yesterday showed him winning 80 per

cent of the vote. Samiha Halil, his only opponent, held an indoor rally in east Jerusalem this week which failed to attract a single Palestinian: the audience consisted of reporters and international election monitors

Not everybody in Salahudin street was enthusiastic about the election. A money-changer said: "I don't really care about all this. These candidates can promise to do things in the rest of the West Bank but not here. In Jerusalem not one of them can deliver a licence to build a house because the Israelis are still in complete control."

Africa's scourge: In face of formidable prejudice, a Jesuit priest is looking for foster parents

Children fight back against Aids taboos

DAVID ORR

For Kevin Kamau, his mother's milk was not as nourishment it should have been. It was instead a poison potion which, after two years of breast-feeding, left

him with HIV. Today, the three-year-old orphan is one of 23 HIV-positive children living in a special centre on the outskirts of Nairobi called Nyumbani – Swahili for "home". Malnourished and ailing. Kevin was taken to the centre by an aunt shortly after the death of his mother from Aids in 1994. Thanks to Dr Angelo d'Agostino and his team, the child is thriving.

Despite the sentence of death hanging over Kevin and other children at Nyumbani, Dr d'Agostino, an American psy-chiatrist and Jesuit priest, has decided that the time is right to launch a fostering programme for his charges. Such a venture is new to Africa and is fraught with difficulties in a continent where so many taboos still surround Aids and HIV infection.

"It's not going to be easy to get these kids fostered", says the grandfatherly Dr d'Agostino in a Boston twang which has still not deserted him after 15 years in Kenya. "These children are undoubtedly stigmatised. We couldn't even get parents to accept them attending the local school. But with education and understanding, I think the difficulties can be oversome. Caring for these children can be very rewarding."

Dr d'Agostino is no stranger to challenges. He launched Nyumbani - Kenya's only specialist hospice for HIV-positive orphans - three-and-a-half years ago with little funding or support. The government's Aids prevention programme is at best half-hearted and few resources are made available to battle the epidemic. He somehow keeps the centre running on donations from institutions, gifts from individuals and grants in a centre nearby. Those who from Unicef and the World have tested HIV-negative are in Health Organisation. The fos-orphanages or have been adopttering programme, to be ed. Twelve children have died. launched in the next month, is modelled on successful schemes in New York and Glasgow.

Although the rate of HIV infection is slowing in neighbouring Uganda, regarded as the continent's worst-affected country, in Kenya it continues 15 per cent of Kenya's hospital scourge of the continent.

beds are taken by Aids patients. There are more than 50,000 reported Aids cases but most researchers think the fig-ure is three times as high. It is thought that as many as one million out of a population of 23 million have HIV.

'Somewhere between ten and twelve thousand children have been orphaned as a result of Aids in Kenya", says Dr d'Agostino. "If we had five centres like this there still wouldn't be enough room for them. By the end of the century, there'll be 120,000 children with HIV infection in this country".

All the children at Nyumban have been abandoned. Most of their mothers came from slum areas and most, it is assumed, were prostitutes. Ironically, it is because they have been abandoned that they are now receiving such committed care.

All the children test HIV positive when they come to Nyumbani. A child born to an HIV-positive mother will automatically test positive, but not all inherit the virus. Between the ages of 8 and 12 months, three out of four of the children test negative and can lead healthy lives. Unfortunately, those who remain in the community, even though not infected, usually die of neglect because of their

HIV-positive stigma.

As with adults, those who continue to test positive will succumb to Aids-related infections and die. The average life span of an HTV-positive child in Africa is between two and three

"We have a very good record", says Dr d'Agostino. "Initially, I thought we'd have a death every few weeks. But we've shown that with good feeding and care they can live much longer - and, more importantly, have a good quality of life. We have two 13-year olds who are getting on well".

Nyumbani has processed 115 children since it opened. Thirty of these are being cared for Among the vegetable plots behind Nyumbani are three tiny graves marked with crosses.

But at Nyumbani they prefer to measure success in the smiling faces around them, not in the numbers of early deaths which will occur in Africa for as to spiral out of control. Some long as Aids remains the



Living positively: Kevin Kamau has HIV but Dr Angelo d'Agostino has given him hope

Chinese arrest doctor's brother

TERESA POOLE

Chinese security police have ar-rested the brother of Zhang Shuyun, the former Shanghai orphanage employee whose in-formation this month revealed the shocking death-toll among the city's orphans and abandoned children in recent years. The police also ransacked the brother's apartment, took money and confiscated jewellery left to Dr Zhang by her recently deceased mother.

Zhang Jian, 44, was detained at his Shanghai home on 9 January, the day after foreign jour-nalists had been given an official tour of the city's orphanage to show how well children there are treated. On 15 January the family was formally told of his arrest and that he was accused of "participating in the counterrevolutionary crime of sub-

verting the government".

Such a charge carries a minimum sentence of 10 years, and was recently used against Photograph: David Orr | the prominent dissident Wei

Jingsheng, who was jailed for 14 years in December.

In the past few days, friends, relatives and former colleagues of Dr Zhang have been inter-rogated, the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday. On 7 January, HRW published a report on death-rates in China's orphanages, based on information provided by Dr Zhang and the Chinese government's Ministry of Civil Affairs statistics.

Dr Zhang left China in March last year and smuggled out hundreds of medical records and documents on the death-toll in the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute between 1988 and 1992. Official investigations between 1989 and 1992, prompted by com-plaints by Dr Zhang and others, led to a high-level cover-up, according to the HRW report.

"[My brother] had nothing to do with my work or what I was try-ing to do. I didn't let my family or friends know because I thought it might place them in danger, Dr Zhang said yesterday.

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N.T. Rama Rao

N. T. Rama Rao is best known in India for having abandoned district. Ambitious, handsome his status as a film god to enter politics, and was three times voted chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, the state's highest elected office, most recently in

A popular screen actor from the south-castern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, "NTR" starred in over 320 Telugulanguage films, usually as a mythological Hindu god or hero. Among the rural poor, he had a massive following. Many of his awed, illiterate followers blurred the distinction between god and actor, and following his death shrines have sprouted in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, where Rama Rao is worshipped as one of Hinduism's many deities. At least one of his followers committed suicide on hearing news of his death.

A populist, he was born into a poor farming family at Nim-



makuru, in the state's Krishna and graced with a booming baritone, he quit his lowly job in the civil service and entered films while in his twenties. From his first part, a walk-on as a police officer in Mana Desam (1949), for which he was paid 500 rupees (today about £10 sterling), he became one of the cinema-crazed state's best-known idols. Wide-shouldered, flamboyant and with a proud, hawkish face, Rama Rao made as good a villain as he did a hero, but he is best known for his portrayals of the two gods Krishna and Rama.

During the Sixties, his fame reached such a pitch that his fans would clash outside theatres with gangs owing alle-giance to rival film stars. One of his films during this period, Shri Venkateshwara Mahatyam (1960) evoked such reverence that Rama Rao's followers erected makeshift shrines inside the cinema halls to pray before and after the screening. His last film paved his entry

into politics. In The Lion of Bobbili (1982), Rama Rao plays an army officer who turns into an idealist fighting against the corrupt government. On his 60th birthday, while The Lion of Bobbili was still filling cinema halls across the state, Rama Rao launched a new political party, the Telugu Desam. Using cin-ema tricks, he travelled Andhra Pradesh campaigning from a makeshift van fitted with lights. a powerful public address sys-tem and a bed. In 90 days, he



covered 35,000 kilometres, a feat he claimed was a world record. He said he owed this feat of endurance to yoga. The appearance of the state's most popular film idol so mesmerised villagers in Andhra Pradesh, many of whom had never seen television or electricity, that Rama Rao's fledgling party, despite its political inexperience. won an overwhelming majority. Hundreds of thousands of supporters witnessed his

swearing-in as chief minister. During his three terms as chief minister, he proved as durable a politician as he had been an actor. His populist younger bride at his side, Lak-

university places for wathen may have nearly bankrupted the state treasury but did win him votes. He was one of the few opposition politicians to stand up ainst the often wrathful Indica Gandhi, then premier.

After the death of his first wife in 1984, Rama Rao's godly lustre faded. A high court found him guilty of corruption and nepotism and his party was thrashed in the 1989 assembly polls. His comeback in 1994 - with a new and far

schemes of seiling rice for two rupees a kilo, building bouses for the poor and reserving more shoulding bouses marred by family feuds. His numerous children hated their stepmother and her influence on the often sickly Rama Rao. He was ousted as chief minister last Angust by his own son-in-law, Chandrababu Naidu. The prime minister, Nara-

simha Rao, described him as "a man of many parts - a learned and deeply religious person, a very fine and powerful actor who swayed millions of people, a forceful orator and above all, a man of the masses." Rama Rao was also chairman of the leftist National Front, an alliance of leftist and regional par-

and her magnificent presence and delivery, touched off re-

newed calls for her to run with

. When Senator Walter Mon-

dale was chosen instead, she

campaigned actively for Carter

Carter, but it was not to be.

ties. "What is destined to hap pen will happen. Victory and defeat are like light and darkness," he laughed on the day when his own family toppled him, in a drama that for many Indians was nearly as spellbinding as Rama Rao's performances as mythological hero.

Tim McGirk

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, actor and politician: born Nim-makuru, India 29 March 1923; founder and first President, Telugu Desam Party 1982; Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh 1983-89, 1994-95; twice married; died Hyderabad 18 January 1996.

the keynote speech at the De-

mocratic convention and again she struck the right note, this time a call for reconciliation.

We need to change the de-

caying inner cities from decay

to places where hope lies," she

said. "We must be prepared to answer Rodney King's haunting

(King was a black motorist

whose beating by the police

the 1993 Los Angeles flors.) "I

say we answer that question with a resounding yes."

Godfrey Hodgson

question, 'Can we get along?'

Ian **Dawson-Shepherd**

Ian Dawson-Shepherd was perhaps the greatest campaigner and friend of cerebrally palsied people and their parents. Thanks to the work of the Spastics Society, which he founded in 1952, attitudes towards cerebral palsy have changed dramatically, so that while before the 1950s it was rare even to see a person with cerebral palsy in public, they now have opporlunities everywhere in society.

Dawson-Shepherd was born at Port Said, Egypt, the son of an official in the Colonial Service. He attended London University and in 1939 joined the army. Commissioned into the King's Regiment (Liverpool), he was seriously wounded in North Africa and was invalided out of the Army in 1944.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, Dawson-Shepherd had a daughter, Rosemary, who was severely disabled by cerebral palsy. The condition occurs when the tiny part of the brain controlling movement has been damaged; each cerebrally palaied child is differently handicapped according to the number of brain cells damaged. Disabilities can range from total incapacity (all four limbs out of control, great difficulty with speaking) to just one side of the body being slightly affected.

At the time, there was a chronic lack of information and support for parents of cerebrally palsied children, and the stigma parents often felt was attached to the condition translated into a tendency to keep those with cerebral palsy out of sight. Em-ployment was not considered

even as a remote possibility. In the 1940s, parents with severely disabled cerebrally palsied children at St Margaret's, Croydon, then the only school for such children in Britain, realised that no provision had been made for their children's further education. It was late in 1951 that Ian Dawson-Shepherd, together with two other parents, Alex Moir and Eric Hodgson, and Jean Garwood, a social worker, began campaigning for some provision to be made. They placed letters in the press which prompted over 600 replies in three weeks. Dawson-Shepherd then called the parents together and they decided to campaign for schools, training and work centres. Their efforts resulted in the formation of the National.

Spastics Society in 1952. In spite of disabilities brought was elected Chairman, and he 1950s. He was a great iconoclast, de was undoubtedly the motivator who ensured the tremendous success that followed. From the moment he flung a £5 note on the table and issued a challenge to raise a million pounds in five years, local groups of parents took up the cudgels and money flooded in. Vital services were provided; schools, resi-dential centres and work centres were established; and as funds increased, social workers were employed to assist the eventual 250 local groups of parents and volunteers. Work training, together with a campaign for placing in jobs, followed. Fund-raising was so successful that the total of £1m (fantastic

four and a half years.
In spite of working as International Marketing Director of the drugs firm Aspro-Nicholas (he coined the advertising slogan "one degree under" for Aspro's aspirin tablets), Dawson-Shepherd still found time in 1960 to persuade

in the 1950s) was reached in

the Spastics Society to fund a Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital. This unit has proved a marked success in discovering reasons for many causes of cerebral palsy.

. . .

Medical research was Dawson-Shepherd's overriding concern. When he was in his mid-seventies - in failing health - and he felt that further research into the causes of neurological disorders was required, he started work all over again. In 1990, gathering together a group of eminent medical scientists headed by the President of the World Federation of Neurology, Professor Richard Marlandus, he formed the Little Foundation (named after Dr William Little who first last century). The foundation is now looking to fund a £100m research programme into causes of neurological disorders.

Like all great pioneers Ian Dawson-Shepherd could be dogmatic, difficult to deal with, but such was the measure of the man that all who knew him respected and admired him. He was a fighter to the end, still asking the almost impossible from all around him. Shortly before his death he was seeking funds for yet another project, this time looking into the problems of nu-



trition and its pre-natal effect unon babies.

In 1995, under pressure from people with cerebral palsy who objected to the negative attitudes which had become associated with the word "spastic". the name of the Spastics Society was changed to Scope. Typically Dawson-Shepherd gave the move his full support. .- palsy. Ian Dawson-Shepherd

chose to head the Spastics Soabout by war wounds, and a ciety campaign for jobs throughout Britain in the late and he had a great sense of humour, never more so than when, in 1963, as a member of the original council I chased him through the snow to bring him back to a meeting after he had 'resigned" because we had refused to sanction an order for 6 million Christmas cards which he had already placed. He thought this very funny, especially visualising me with my ungainly gait, and so did L

He was married twice. His second wife Margaret K. Johns, the film producer, survives him as do five of his daughters. Sadly, his disabled daughter. who was the sole reason for his work, died in 1986.

William Hargreaves Ian Douglas Dawson-Shepherd, charity worker, born Port Said Egypi 23 September 1915: founder and chairman, National Spastics Society (Scope) 1951-60; twice married (five daughters, and one daughter deceased):

died London 8 January 1996.

Barbara Jordan

Barbara Jordan was the first African-American to be electcd to either house of the United States Congress since the Reconstruction period immediately after the Civil War.

In 1976 she was the first black woman to be seriously considered as a Vice-Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party, and she twice gave the keynote address at Democratic national conventions, in 1976 and again in 1992

Her greatest moment, however, came in 1974 as a member of the judiciary committee of the House of Representatives during the hearings on the possible impeachment of Presivarious excesses collectively known as "Watergate".

With quiet but passionate eloquence she stirred her colleagues and the national television audience to share her stern conception of the committee's duty. Her fellow

from pressing impeachment by intervention is reckoned to have been decisive in persuading the committee to recommend that impeachment proceedings should go forward.

When the Constitution was signed, Jordan said, she, as a black woman, was not included. "I felt somehow," she said wrily, "that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake." But, through the process of amendment. interpretation and court decision she was finally one of "We the people". "Today," she said, "I am an inquisitor, and I bedent Richard Nixon for the lieve it would not ... overstate the solemnness that I feel right now to say my faith in the Constitution is whole, it is total, and I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the destruction of

the Constitution." "As if speaking from tablets

Democrats had been held back of stone," as her fellow Democrat Senator Lloyd Bentsen refear of appearing partisan. Her called, in her strong voice with a Texas accent clipped for effect. she concluded with a peroration that exactly expressed what tens of millions of Americans felt. "If the impeachment provision in the Constitution will not reach the offences charged here, then perhaps that 18thcentury Constitution should be abandoned to a 20th-century

> In 1976 she featured on a longish list of people who were being considered as possible Vice-Presidential candidates by Jimmy Carter and his advisers speech at the Democratic convention. Polls at that point showed that her presence on the ticket would lose Carter more votes than she would bring to him. When she spoke, however, her "rolling rhetoric", as one reporter put it, aroused huge enthusiasm in the audience. A ma-

paper-shredder."



green dress, her father had to leave. I didn't want to wake been a Baptist minister, and she up one fine sunity morning and February 1936; Member (Despoke with the Exciting say there is nothing else that mocratic), Texan Senate 1966-72; cadences of generations of Barbara Jordan can do."

Member, House of Representasouthern black preachers.

She ended by quoting Abraham Lincoln: "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea

of democracy." That sentiment,

and worked successfully with Jesse Jackson and other black leaders to register large num-bers of new black voters. The next year, however, she surprised political Washington by announcing that she would stand down from Congress and go home to Texas after only

she explained, the harder it is Barbara Charline Jordan, politi-From 1979 she taught at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the Universi-

three two-year terms. The longer you stay in Congress."

tives 1973-78; Lyndon B. John-son Public Service Professor, University of Texas, Austin 1979 ty of Texas in Austin, where she 82, Lyndon B. Johnson Centen was immensely popular with stunial Chair in National Policy 1982-96; died 17 January 1996. dents. In 1992 she again gave

> 1968), Herman Melville, St Nicholas, Perseus, Dr Albert Schweitzer, Lot's wife, James Joyce, Medusa, and Sigmund Sherlock Holmes - which was

Samuel Rosenberg

The death (though not yet the resurrection) of Samuel Rosenberg has occurred in New York.

The presence of Friedrich Nietzsche at the Reichenbach Falls in 1877 was the premiss for Rosenberg's theory that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based the character of Professor Moriarty on the German philosopher and that Doyle's detective stories were the "pre-Freudian psycho-dramatic confessions" of "self-revealing allegorist". His findings were published

in 1974 by Bobbs Merrill (or Boobs Merrill as he referred to them). The book, Naked is the Best Discuise: the death and resuncction of Sherlock Holmes, enjoyed great success in America (where it sold over 25,000 copies in hardback and was on the "Book-of-the-Month" list for several months), and there was success of a different sort in England where Desmond Elliott of Arlington Books was forced to remainder many thousand copies to the delight of be-

able to purchase them for as little as 50p a copy.

Although never an invested Baker Street Irregular and often scornful of "orthodox Sherlockian ducks" and "Bakerstreetniks", he contributed an expanded version of a chapter of his book to Beyond Baker Street (1976), gave several lec-tures on the "Conan Doyle syndrome", and wrote introductions to facsimile editions of The Hound of the Baskervilles and The Return of Sherlock mused Sherlockians, who were Holmes published in 1975.

He was born in Cleveland and was an omnivorous reader (omnivorous in more senses than one - his friend Buckminster Fuller described the 6ft 3in, 21-stone Rosenberg as "history's most massive reader"). He first came to New York in the 1930s, when he worked in the theatre. During the Second World War he was employed as a photo-analyst for the Office of Strategic Services and afterwards served as an official pho-

found his true calling as a literary consultant for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, by whom he was engaged on account of his prodigious memory to check for plagiarism (a talent which led him to suggest, among other things, that Conan Doyle may have lifted simple sentences from translations made after his death of the works of German

philosophers he had not read). His other essays and studies concentrated on characters such tographer at the birth of the United Nations. In the 1960s he an article in Life magazine in

Freud, but it is for his book on not so much "resurrection" as "desecration" - that he will be best remembered. Richard Lancelyn Green

Samuel Rosenberg, writer: born Cleveland, Ohio 1910; married Angela Nizzardini (one daughter); died New York 5 January 1996.

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

BATE: On 8 January, in hospital, Regi-nald Francis Bate, (Reg.), aged 73 years. Funeral service, St Peter's Church, Eating, 29 January at 11.30am. Please, no flowers, but dis-nations instead to John Groom's or Injured Jockeys Fund, All enquiries to P. Ryan and Daughter, telephone 0181.57 166.1

FELLOWS: Howard Alwyn, of Sproughton, Ipswich, and formerly of Felsted, on 14 January 1996, suddenly but peacefully whilst on holiday. Husband of the late Dorreen and of Margaret, father of William, David, Nicholas and Andrew, A much-loved and devoted husband, father, steplather and grandfather who will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements

to be announced later. RASCHID: Fatima (Daw Thoung May), aged S5, in Quincy, Pennsylvania, on Theyday 16 January. Beloved wife of the late Burmese Muslim leader U Raschid. Indefutigable champion of the past, the seek and the oppressed, President of the National Council of Women in Burma. Mother of Mr Bi-tal Backid ambient of Mal. lal Raschitt, architect, of McLean, Vir-ginia, and Or Salman Raschid gmin, and Or Salman Raschid, psychiatrist, of Hampstead, London, Greatly adored mother, grandmother (funetal) will take place. God willing, in Karachi, Pakistan – where she will be laid to rest beside her husband. Robinatullah alahama; may the mer-co of God by unon them. For butthers Rainmanulan-alamma; may me mer-cy of God be upon them. For further information coulast Mrs Rose Raschid (Daw Tin Tin Sann) at the Burnese Section, BBC World Service,

For Gazette, please telephone 0(71-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Birthdays

Mr Desi Arnaz Jur, actor, 43; Mr Peter Atkinson MP, 53; Miss Nina Bawden, novelist, 71; Mr Dewey Bunnell, rock musician, 45; The Earl of Carnaryon, honorary racing manager to the Queen, 72; Sir Jonathan Clarke, former circuit judge, 66; Mr Michael Crawford, actor and singer, Mr Bernard Dunstan, painter, 76; Mr Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 30; Mr Rod Evans, rock singer, 51; Mr Phil Everly, rock singer, 57; Mr Wal-ter Goldsmith, chairman, Betterware, 58; Mr William Hayden, former chairman and chief executive Jaguar, 67; Mr Hans Hotter, bass baritone, 87; Sir Alex Jarratt, former chairman, Smiths Industries, 72: Mr Richard Lester, film director, 64; Brigadier Helen Meechie, former di-rector of the WRAC, 58; Mr David Newbigging, chairman, Ivory & Sime, 62: Mr Nigel Nicolson, former MP and author, 79; Mr Robert Palmer, rock singer and guitarist, 47; Miss Dolly Parton, country music singer, 5th Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, former Secretary-General of the UN, 76; Mr Bryan Pringle, actor, 61; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, 41; Mr Charles Smith, managing director, Chevron UK, 66; Sir John Stanley MP, 54; Mr Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 47; Mr Gary Titley MEP, 46;

Anniversaries Rieths: James Watt, inventor of the modern condensing steam engine, 1736; Edgar Alian Poe, author and poet, 1809; Paul Cezanne, pointer, 1839. Deaths: William Congreve, playwright, 1729; Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, journalist and socialist,

Mr David Tredennick MP, 46: The

Earl of Wemyss and March, former

president, National Trust for Scot-

1865; Auguste-Ferdinand François Mariette, Egyptologist, 1881. On this day: King Edward III established the Order of the Garter, 1348; an ex-

ion occurred at Woolwich Assenal the East London munitions factory, with 450 casualties, 1917; In-dira Gandhi became prime minister of India, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Abachum and Audifax, St Albert of Cashel, St Canute IV of Denmark, St Charles of Sezze, St Fillan or Foelan, St German HM Government Henry of Uppsala, Saints Marius and Martha, St Messalina, St Nathalan

Lord O'Brien of Lothbury

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord O'Brien of Lothbury GBE PC FRCM will be beld in the Chapel A service of thank of the Order of the British Empire, the Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral, Lon-don EC4, at 11.30am on Thursday 14 March. Those attending are requested to take their seats by 11.15am. For further information, ase contact the Assistant Secretary, Bank of England.

Dr H. K. Prescot A service of thanksgiving for the life of Kelsall Prescot will be held on Friday 23 February in Eton College

Derek and Gwen

ģ.

Kimber A Thanksgiving Service for Derek Barton Kimber OBE and Gwen Kimber will be held on Friday 9 February 1996 at St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Street, London EC4, at 12 noon.

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens, London SW1, in honour of Mr Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign

Mr Ian Lang MP, President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a dinner held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Ali Alatas, Indonesian Foreign

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.12pm.

United Synagognes: 0171-387 4360. Federation of Synagognes: 0181-362 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagognes 9171-580 1663. Reform Synagognes of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Iews Consequent 0171-289 0171-289 tuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogae (Ma-sorti): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROTAL ELYCERAFE, VIEW 13: Prince Sound Council, the Dake of Bilinburgh i Award International Council, the Dake of Bilinburgh i Award International Association, visits Castlebar College to meet Calace purificipants and Indicas of Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland, and as Chairman, International Council, the Duke of Bilinburgh's Award International Association, antends a Gauste reception and luncheou at Asthord Chefe, County Mayo, Ireland. The Princess Royal visus the Resulbic of Heshard. Changing of the Guard The Household Civalry Mount

Pregnancy claim after vasectomy struck out

LAW REPORT Advisory Service; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord

A doctor who advised a man, following a vasectomy, that the operation was successful and no contraception needed to be used to avoid pregnancy, did not owe a duty of care to the man's future sexual partner who was told of the advice, became pregnant and claimed

Justice Thorpe); 17 January 1996

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the defen- . dant, BPAS, and struck out the plaintiff's claim.

year-old teacher who was divorced and had one son, commenced a sexual relationship with a man who informed her that he had had a successful vasectomy in 1984 arranged by BPAS who had advised him, after semen tests in 1985, that he no longer needed to use any method of contraception. The plaintiff consulted her own GP who told her that there was a minute chance of getting pregnant. She ceased to use a contraceptive coil. In 1989 the vasectomy underwent sponta-neous reversal. The plaintiff became pregnant and she gave

In 1988 the plaintiff, a 40-

The plaintiff brought pro-

19 January 1996 ceedings against BPAS alleging would be communicated to that it was in breach of its duty of care to her in failing to warn the man of the possibility of spontaneous reversal and to advise the use of contracentive. tionship until three years later protection. She claimed damwas not apparent. It was not ages for financial loss. Judge Paul Clark refused BPAS's pleaded that BPAS expected communication of its advice to

Roger Stewart (Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) for BPAS: Cherie Booth QC (Linnell) for the plaintiff.

application to strike out the

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that the doctor who performed a vasectomy on a man could not realistically be described as employed to confer a benefit on the man's sexual partners in the form of avoiding pregnancy. Still less could he be so described when he was giving advice on tests after the

operation. For the plaintiff to have a sustainable case in negligence for financial loss arising from reliance on advice given by Bpas, there must a proximity or relationship between the giver of the advice and the person who acted on it.

How BPAS knew or should have known that its advice determinately large class of

the plaintiff and relied on by her as a warranty of permaner infertility when she did not commence the sexual rela-

the man's sexual partners nor that BPAS was alerted that the advice would be passed on to sexual partners. It was not alleged nor could it reasonably be alleged that BPAS knew that its advice when communicated to the plaintiff was likely to be acted

inquiry. BPAS could know nothing about the likely course of action of future partners. BPAS was not in a sufficient or any special relationship with the plaintiff such as gave rise to a duty of care. It could not properly be said that BPAS voluntarily assumed responsibility to the plaintiff when giving advice to the man. At that time, she was not an existing partner but was merely, like any other woman in the world, a po-

tential future sexual partner of

his, that is a member of an in-

al relations with the man during his lifetime.

It was impossible to believe that the policy of the law was or should be to treat so tenuous a relationship between the adviser and the advisee as giving rise to a duty of care. It was beyond belief that in ceasing to use any contracep-

tive method, the plaintiff was induced by and relied on the man's bare assertion to her that he had had a vasectomy and could not have any children, given that she only removed her contraceptive coil after taking advice from her GP. She took the risk that there was a small possibility of pregnancy. The plaintiff's claim would

on by her without independent be struck out. Lord Justice Thorpe, concurring, said that the plaintiff was no nearer the doctor adviser than one who some three and half years after the operation commenced a sexual relationship with his patient. The class to which the plaintiff belonged was potentially excessive in size and uncertain in character. The adviser's state of knowledge militated against the plaintiff. Finally the plaintiff failed the test of

Ylog Hoi Tan, Barrister



news analysis

Stakeholding is this week's buzzword. Is it really a departure, or just a new recipe for old ingredients, asks Yvette Cooper

au son-Shephe O: Why is everyone suddenly so obsessed with "stakeholding?" Because 10 days ago Labour leader Tony Blair launched it as his Big Idea. Addressing businessmen in Singa-pore, he said: "The economics of the centre and centre left today should be geared to the creation of the stake-holder economy, which involves all our people, not a privileged few."

Labour's spin doctors announced that stakeholding would be the theme for the general election campaign. Conservative Central Office launched a counter-attack. Last night in Derby. Blair made another speech about it and further announcements are planned in coming months.

O. So what does it mean? That's the problem; no one is quite

Q. Well Blair must be clear about it. He says so, but most people are still puzzled. Blair said it was a unifying theme for Labour policies, many of them already well known. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, says it's about giving people opportunities to work and to get training. Majorie Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, said stakeholding just meant an economy based around "people".

Q It sounds very vague. Is there any

Yes. There are lots of specific ideas and policies about the economy, the way that companies run, the way the welfare state operates and our role as citizens and consumers. All these over it for a long time. In his leadideas can lay claim to the term

Q. Where did it all start?

The Oxford English Dictionary doesn't shed much light on the origins of stakeholding. It describes a stakeholder as a bookmaker – an independent party with whom each of those who makes a wager deposits the money". A more evocative image of a stakeholder is one of the brave New World settlers, staking out their territory and building new lives. Having a stake means owning something and being able to decide

The term has become fashionable recently partly because the term "stakeholder capitalism" was popu-larised by Will Hutton, the Guardian's assistant editor, in his best selling book The State We're In. Other exponents of similar ideas include John Kay, chairman of London Economics, and Charles Handy, the management guru, who have applied the idea to the way companies work. They say successful companies do not just serve their shareholders, but they also look after everyone who has a stake in the company's success: workers, managers, customers and suppliers as well as shareholders.

Q. So Blair pinched the idea from management books? No Blair's version of stakeholding includes ideas picked from all over the place, and he has been mulling

ership manifesto 18 months ago he lamented that social cohesion and a sense of responsibility was undermined when millions did not have a

stake in society. Blair is using the stakeholding as a phrase - not a catchy one - to sum up these ideas. The first is that government policy must be aimed at giving everyone opportunities to work, themselves. That gives them a stake in society. The second theme is that, in return, people must take more

people to stand on their

own two feet. It is not

meant to be a

recipe for more

state interven-

learn, to train and to improve responsibility for themselves. Stakeholding is meant to encourage

gapore Blair said: "If people feel hey have no stake in society, they feel little responsibility towards it and little inclination to work for it's

Q. It still sounds very waffly, what does it mean in practice? What would stakeholding mean for the

The first thing Blair means by it, is tackling unemployment: giving peo-ple a stake in the economy, on this count, basically means giving them a job. And Labour has a long list of

policies for the long-term unem- of the company as a community" ployed and the young unemployed, ranging from new training to subsidies to private employers that take them on. If Labour's policies could really achieve all they promise, a stakeholder economy would be one in which no young person remained without training or work - and hence without a stake - for more than six months.

Q. Jobs. Is that all? What about giving people a greater stake in the company that employs them? Stakeholding can mean anything from good communication to sharing the financial spoils through employee share-ownership schemes or workers councils, depending

on how radical you are. John Lewis, the retailer, is probably the best known model of a what a pure "stakeholder" company might be like: it's a partnership that is largely owned by its employees. And there are smaller firms such as Baxi, the boiler manufacturers, in which 100 per cent of shares are

owned by employees.

Labour doesn't want all companies to be like this. but it does want them to involve more of their workers through share ownerhip. Yesterday, for example,

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, was promoting Employee Share Ownerhsip Plans. Labour is looking at how employees might exert more influence over their investments in companies through pension funds, by making the funds account more openly for the decisions they make.

O. Will companies be forced to do this sort of thing? Unlikely. Blair made clear in his Singapore speech that much of the

responsibility for change lies with the companies themselves: "We cannot by legislation guarantee that a company will behave in a way conducive to trust and long-term commitment. But it is surely time to assess how we shift the emphasis in corporate ethos ... towards a vision

Q. Sounds fine, but surely it will just let the Trade Unions in through the back door? Some union leaders might see it that way and in the past week the Con-servatives have alleged that stake-holding is just a disguise for a return

to corporatism. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, described it as "a deal under which Labour's old friends in the trade union movement would get back all the power and privileges they abused in the Seventies". Blair and Brown deny this. Brown said this week: "A stakeholder Britain is not a statist Britain ... Tony Blair and I have made it absolutely clear that we will not go back to the old corporatist agenda." The new stakeholders that Labour wants to appeal to are indi-viduals rather than institutions.

Q. Is the idea confined to the econ-

omy and business? Far from it. If anything, the most detailed policy proposals that Blair includes in the stakeholder theme are about the reform of the welfare state and education. Next month he will make a speech about what stakeholding will mean for people's political rights. The clearest example of a stakeholding Labour policy is the idea of an "individual learning account", shortly to be outlined by Education spokesman David Blunkett. The account would be a way of showing people, perhaps through vouchers to spend on training, what each individual was entitled to in adult education. This would allow them more choice over where and when to learn. The Labour idea is that this would give people more of a sense of ownership over their education, rather than passively consuming whatever the state provides.

O. What would a stakeholder welfare state look like?

Labour's Social Security spokesman Chris Smith is reported to be considering some radical ideas drawn from the Far East. At its most waffly this could mean people feeling more attached to the welfare state in the way they feel proud of the NHS. But

a idea Tony

there is a hard edge to the idea. It is that if people claim benefits, they must give something back to society. Labour accepts that long-term dependence on benefits is demoralising and self-perpetuating. It wants to use the benefits system to encourage people to become more self-reliant. So, for instance, unemployed people below the age of 25 would be offered several options for

work and training if they were to continue getting benefits. If they turned these down, benefits would Another idea is about pensions. Some Labour modernisers believe that the state should legislate to encourage people to save to cover periods of unemployment and provide for their old age. The general principle is that the state should encourage individuals to make the right choices about their pensions and their education, rather than to

Q. What about our stake in the polit-

step in to do the job for them.

ical system? Blair has said little about this. although he intends to make a speech on stakeholding and constitutional reform next month. Giving everyone a real political stake means allowing people to participate more directly in political decision-making: it could mean anything from greater regional democracy to more referendums.

Q. So does stakeholding amount to a new departure or is just a way of

dressing up existing policies. Most of the ideas Blair is talking about using the stakeholder idea are very familiar. He hopes stakeholding will provide more coherence to existing themes and policies. The concept of "stakeholding" alone fails to answer the important questions about whether Labour is fit to govem. Will Labour reform the welfare state and restrain public spending? Will it deliver on its low tax pledges? Does it really believe in the market and how much will it use the state to intervene? The terminology of stakeholding doesn't help us answer any of these questions, it is largely just a different way of discussing them.



Darcy was in denial, OK?

÷ - 2**

Jane Austen, according to the movie magazine Premiere. is now seen in Hollywood as the 19th-century equivalent of Quentin Tarantino. Presumably, they envisage such magic moments as Darcy resplendent in sunglasses and zoot suit telling Elizabeth: "Your mother is lacking in wit. I shall with your permission waste the bitch." Hollywood film-makers are,

McGrath offers a novel reasoning for Americans colonising Austen on film. "The people of Woody Allen and Jane Austen are not so far apart," he says. They are all élite, comfortable people, socially conscious and representing the wit of the time rather than the action. You don't have to have read Jane Austen to understand the social habits.

The story is all about life." Emma as a Woody Allen film? Well, Mr Knightley is a lot older than Emma. He thought he had a lot to teach her, yet



Gwyneth Paltrow: star in an, er, Woody Allen-style Emma

it seems, falling over each other to adapt the Austen oeuvre. The blonde American starlet Gwyneth Paltrow is soon to star as the brunette. English Emma, directed by Douglas McGrath. co-writer of the Woody Allen film Bullets Over Broadway.

Generation Why

Tony Reeve and Steve Way

underneath he is a little unsure of himself. And the country dancing scenes could always be modified to a jazz quintet. But the McGrath film might ver hit a major snag. There is no record of Mr Knightley going

OM HAVING SECOND

TROUGHTS ABOUT THE WHOLE BYPASS PROTEST, TANYA.

the Wrekin. Yesterday he delivered his

Heroes only

A question. Who are "Saxon-Norman thugs"? Why, the Government, of course, according to the Four Weddings and a Funeral actor Kenneth Griffith. who will be in Cardiff tonight to address a Sinn Fein rally. "As a Welsh democrat I am going to Cardiff to state very firmly that Britain is entirely in the wrong and Sinn Fein is entirely

in the right," he tells me Griffith, whose cameo in Four Weddings is in the cast list as "mad old man", has asked Gerry Adams in advance of tonight's meeting if he can join

Sinn Fein. Adams told him: "You don't have to join. You are already a member of the Republican family." As a director, Griffith claims

"only to make films about heroes". His Sixties film Hang Out Your Brightest Colours, about the IRA's founding father, Michael Collins, was banned for 21 years. As well as Collins, his heroes' gallery includes the unlikely gathering of Thomas Paine, Nehru and Zola Budd.

That figures

Peter Bruinvels, the diminutive former MP for Leicester, who once notoriously volunteered to be the public hangman, has already shot himself in the foot in his new role as Conservative parliamentary candidate for

IT'S ALWAYS MORE COMPLICATED THAN YOU THINK. ALL THIS HASSLE... ARE WE DOING THE

RIGHT THING? I HEAN...

11th press release of the year, on the subject of local unemployment, which he said had fallen. "This latest drop in unemployment figures is good news for the people of Wrekin, employers and employees alike, for the county of Shropshire and for the country," he maintained on local radio.

Listeners at the Central Office of Information, however, were mystified. Unemployment figures for the Wrekin have actually gone up, no matter how many ways you slice the area up. "The figures have risen from

3,622 in November to 3,654 now," a spokesman said yes-terday. "We found what Bruinvels had to say most amusing."
The man himself sticks by his

calculations. "I am not wrong," he maintained with supreme Page 31 girls confidence.

Noakes poke Shep, the trusted companion of

John Noakes, the former Blue Peter presenter, may have barked his last some years back, but his master is suddenly active on all fronts. Not only has Noakes at the age of 62 recorded his first single, "Sheep Dip Disco", which features his tender rebuke to the late sheepdog, "Get down, Shep!" - he has also signed up for the Government and is fronting an advertising campaign for the DTI's "Smart" competition, which awards money to small businesses to help produce innovative product ideas.



the individual can thrive. That is what

the stakeholder economy is all about.

Go with Noakes: he's cheap

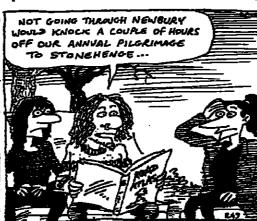
Here, I have to tell him, he may have been fleeced. A DTI spokesman cheerily confided to me: "We paid John less than the going rate."

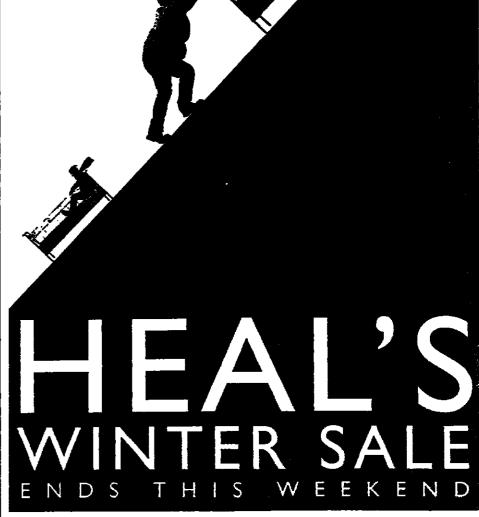
How to insult a girl without really trying: the Daily Express flagged on its front page yes-terday: "Your Practical Guide to Plastic Surgery", page 31. Turn to page 31 and there is a full-page spread on Channel
4's The Girlie Show with a glamorous photograph of its three stars, one of whom is holding up her blouse to draw attention to her bosom.

This, I respectfully assume, is not the practical guide to plastic surgery, which in fact turns up elsewhere in the

Can a girl sue because of a faulty cross-reference? Case law is silent on this.

Eagle Eye





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Old ghosts Blair must lay to rest

Tony Blair is trying hard to make vot-ers feel safe. Last night in a speech in Derby he addressed the deep insecurities that people across all classes feel about losing their jobs, poverty in old age and crime.
The balm he offered was his "stakeholder economy", which he summed up as "a strong cohesive society in which the individual can thrive".

It was a short, vague speech that offered little detail. Mr Blair's alleged big idea has a warm, reassuring feel, this notion that everyone should be included and given opportunities. The trouble is that it also provokes insecurities of an entirely different kind. Those worries are that this talk of stakeholding merely dis-guises old-fashioned Labour policies and that it will be used by the trade unions to get back some of the powers they lost in the 1980s.

Mr Blair needs to dispel those doubts if the message of "stakeholding" - however vague and convoluted - is to get through to the average, middle-income voters he wants to woo. It was their swing to Margaret Thatcher that put the Tories into power, and it is their disillusionment with the Conservatives today that could let Mr Blair into Downing Street.

Many of these voters, particularly in the south, were won over by Thatcherism's message of competition and the survival of the fittest, the offer of choice and the call to rely more on themselves and less on the state. In the Nineties that dream has turned sour. Managers, bank workers, professionals - they have all felt the chill of redundancies. House prices plunged. The middle classes have become fearful.

So today everyone - even the Labour party - may accept that the rigours of global competition are inescapable, even

via nationalisation or protectionism. But this creed of the Eighties is no longer enough. People want to know there is a way to recover if they become casualties of change. They want to be able to pick themselves up, dust themselves down, learn a new skill.

Mr Blair is offering some answers. For example, yesterday he spoke of "individual learning accounts", a sum which people could save with the state's help but then choose themselves how to spend on their own training. Individual ownership - be it of training or pensions - rather than state paternalism, seems to be the healthy

direction of Mr Blair's thinking.

But he has not fully realised how his narty still scares those he wants to reassure. Those middle-class voters he culti-vates are easily frightened that Labour favours old-style Seventies corporatism and a resurgence of union power.

These fears were dismissed last night. Mr Blair declared that the stakeholder economy "is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to you,

He may be sincere in his protestations. But his supporters are less convincing. This week, Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, talked about "social and economic partnerships", which sounded suspiciously like the oldstyle corporatism that smothered enterprise. John Monks. the TUC leader, thinks stakeholding will underpin union collective bargaining. Mr Blair heads a party in which many have yet to be converted to Blairism. Only when voters are convinced that New Labour has complete the state of th pletely buried its past, will Mr Blair be able adequately to address middle-class insecurity. And that is the key to the gen-

Mr Robinson's Forte flutter

Cerry Robinson, chief executive of the There is little room for sentiment in the ble. Eighteen months ago he won control of London Weekend Television, ousting the popular chief executive Greg Dyke and freeing up an unwilling Sir Christopher Bland for an eventual role as the next chairman of the BBC. Both the bid and the way it was conducted left a nasty taste in many mouths. People wanted to know why a successful management team was dumped by institutional investors who could not be sure of the consequences.

Today Mr Robinson is locked in the final stages of a battle for the Forte Group, with its chief executive Sir Rocco Forte resisting Granada's claims that Forte is a badly managed "sleeping giant" that only Granada's managerial kiss can fully awake.

Sir Rocco's friends and supporters retort that Granada's bid will leave it burdened with nearly £4bn of debt, and it will be forced to sell off the best parts of a business that has been painstakingly assembled over the years. The bid is litthe more than an asset-stripping operation, launched by a management with a successful but short track record.

Forte, by contrast, is a name to conjure with. Many who respect the achievement of Sir Rocco's father, a poor Glaswegian who pulled himself up from nothing, are appalled by the way this could be dismantled on the say-so of one or two large pension-fund managers. By next Tuesday we will know who has finally prevailed.

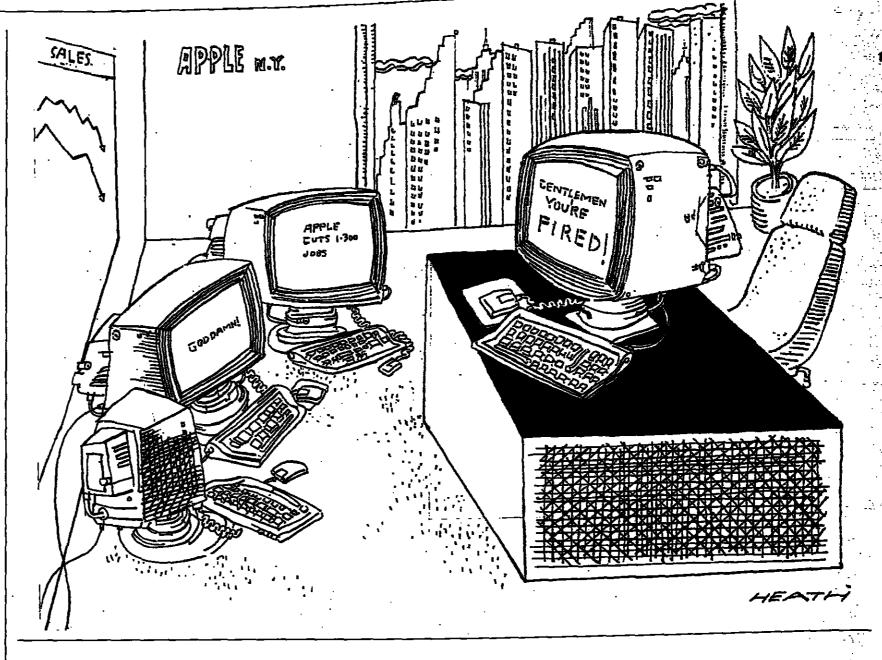
exploited this in the past. His business grew most prodigiously through its takeover of Trusthouse in the Sixties. Then most of the charges being levelled at Mr Robinson today were aimed at the Fortes: they were the new arrivals intent on taking over a venerable company.

There is no public interest at stake in this bid. Even though service-sector companies are far more important than they were to the economy, Forte does not rank as a national asset. It has lost the support of the City in recent years because its family management responded too slowly to calls for higher returns.

However, none of this means the bid reflects well on Granada, or the City itself where advisers. PR men and merchant bankers have been raking in huge fees. Did the pension funds who are selling out to Granada do as much as they could to pressurise Forte to change more quickly?

It seems unlikely. But the man who really has to worry is Mr Robinson. His strategy has twisted and turned as the bid has progressed. Granada will be very highly geared and, as a result, very vulnerable if he should win. Mr Robinson may well have overplayed his hand and offered over the odds for Forte in a

show of managerial machismo. If that is so, he will probably pay for his overambition at the hands of his own shareholders and the entire bid will have



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

over your wives and they have

Thank you very much on behalf of the thousands of Mus-

lim women and girls we counsel

Sir: Polly Toynbee asserts that

we may detest everything that

Mr Masari stands for, even

though she is no more of a representative for the British public

than Mr Masari is for the Mus-

lim community. His views on divorce ("it is a very good thing")

are totally un-Islamic, as Prophet

Mohamed said on several occa-

Muslim wife should stay at home

with the children, forgetting that

Mohamed's wife Khadiia owned

one of Arabia's most successful

businesses. Such misguided, sex-

ist views are probably the reason

he is twice divorced.

Yours sincerely.

rights over you!

each year.

Yours sincerely.

Administrator

ZARINA CHOUDRY

Wembley, London

From Mr Mehdi Hasan

Muslim Women's Helpline

Al-Masari's Islamic beliefs, values and goals

But I am fighting for an elected and accountable government in

Arabia - chosen by men and

women - which will make the

laws of the country, which will be implemented by an independent

judiciary and will be criticised by a free press, free labour unions and free associations.

The regime I fight by fax and by telephone is accountable to no

one, elected by no one, loots its

own country's wealth and imple-

ments its twisted arbitrary and

repressive version of Sharia law

without legal basis or moral legit-

imacy. Which should British lib-

erals and progressives prefer?

MOHAMMED AL-MASARI

Yours sincerely.

From Professor Mohammed

Sir: In her attempt to prove me a "viper" whom feminists and atheists like her can "tolerate" only through "gritted teeth", Polly Toynbee distorts my views, my character, misquotes and quotes out of context my remarks and thus misleads your readers "Why Mr Masari is good for us", 18 January).

She shows me apparently admiring Khomeini - whom I admire only in as much as he mobilised 5 million people against the dictatorship - while I made abundantly clear to her that we oppose Khomeini-ism as a methodology and would never replicate his theocracy in our own country.

In an apparent picture of a rake's progress, she distorts my own family life in a most insulting way, for example accusing me The truth

As for the rest of her anti-Islamic prejudices - a shockingly acceptable form of racism among some Western liberals - our organisation is unashamedly Islamic and it follows that we wish to see an Islamic system of law in

Have faith in

From Mr D. B. Price

the second boat

Church, Brecon, South Wales.

that they might arrive by the

London, SW1 From Ms Zarina Choudry Sir: Mohammed al-Masari is sions: "Of all the lawful things, incorrect in stating that "[Mus- the one that God dislikes the of "creating" single-parent families around the globe. The truth
with their husbands at any time. heir husbands at any time. is that my wives already had chil- in any manner. Oral and anal sex dren when I married them, are completely forbidden accordbefore I had children of my own. ing to Islamic law. Furthermore the wife has as much right to sex-

ual satisfaction as her husband (Imam al Ghazali) - The Muslim Marriage Guide by Ruqaiyyah Magsood (Quilliam Press). Mohamed's last sermon:

May I quote from the Prophet Hear me well! You have rights

MEHDI HASAN Harrow, Middlesex 17 January

John Simons deeply regretted that he could give him no assurance that he would get to Heaven Sir: Your correspondents' views but did grudgingly concede that on the certainties of Heaven and he might well get on that second boat. This, I believe, was because Hell as the Church of England might have us believe it reminds my father pruned his roses most skilfully. Well, would a man who me of a former vicar of St David's

Canon John Simons (his son denied entry to the Kingdom of Heaven! Glyn became Bishop of Llandaff) I have long pondered on the strange fact that educated and was known in the town as "Canon Simons Second Boat". This was on account of his frequently intelligent men - and the canon was both - could believe such expressed view that only "his" people went to Heaven. Chapel nonsense. But they can, and do. people had little hope though he did hold out a faint possibility Yours faithfully

D. B. PRICE Sarisbury Green, Hampshire 16 January

My father, chapel not Church The price of of England, was then gravely ill. a little mould From Mr Kevin Brown

Sir. I was interested to read about the sale at Sotheby's of a slide with a sample of a descendent of Alexander Fleming's original Penicillium notatum could prune a rose really be mould for £15,000 ("Fleming treasure", 15 January). The price reached reflects the continued interest in artefacts with even a peripheral connection with

> What cannot be given such an arbitrary valuation is the actual discovery in a small, musty, dusty laboratory here at St Mary Hospital, Paddington, in 1928, a chance discovery by a great mind prepared for the unusual that ushered in the antibiotic age in medicine and has saved countless lives and improved the quality of others. The importance of the discovery of penicillin is beyond price, and surely is more

valuable than a slide kept in a hat box. Yours. KEVIN BROWN Irust Archivist Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum Curator St Mary's Hospital

Delia's frugal days

London, W2

17 January

From Dr Ruth Bryant Sir: With reference to Louise Levene's article (17 January) concerning "Delia's budget collection" proposals, I have a paperback by Delia Smith called Frugal Food published in 1976 and full of exactly the sort of economical but delicious recipes she proposes - very useful when first married!

Yours sincerely, RUTH BRYANT Rugby 17 January

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ level financial advice knows where to independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

The place of Greece in Europe

From Ms Despina Christodoulou Sir. How unsurprising to read yet another wholesale condemnation of Greece in the British press. According to Andrew Gumbel's pseudo-sociological analysis ("An end to the Greek Myth", 17 January), Greece is "primitive", "undisciplined", a "fiefdom" of nepotism and corruption, where orgies of violence are commonplace, surviving only through the generous European Union funds that it squanders.

True, Greece is quite unlike the rest of Europe, but herein likes its strength. Greece's Byzantine and Ottoman pasts provide Greece with a cultural make-up and "mental geography" shared by much of the region but inaccessible to the rest of the EU.

Greece has an invaluable nsight into the psychological aspects of the new nationalisms springing up in the nether regions of Europe - Chechnya and Bosnia heing good examples with the Balkans on track for recovery, Greece is due to become a regional powerhouse. This is where a "strategy" for Greece lies - to put it cynically, as Europe's outpost in the East. But first the rest of Europe must learn to appreciate Greece and its idiosyncrasies a little more. Yours sincerely,

D. CHRISTODOULOU Cambridge 18 January

From Professor Roderick Beaton Sir: Andrew Gumbel attributes to Andreas Papandreou the breathtaking achievement, for a prime

minister of Greece, of securing EU funding for a bridge between the European and Asiatic shores of Turkey ("across the Helles-pont"). In sober fact, the Rio-Antirrio bridge, if it is ever built, will span the mouth of the Gulf of Corinth, the waterway in which the armies of Christendom and Islam clashed in the year 1573, causing Miguel de Cervantes to lose an arm and take up writing as a career.

More seriously, in his eagerness to attribute all the political, social and economic ills of Greece to the agency of one man, Mr Gumbel's searing condemnation of the "towering per-sonality of Greek politics over the past 15 years' gives your readers no hint of the fact that for three of these years, from 1990 to 1993, Greece was governed by the

opposing, right-wing New Democracy Party under the premiership of Constantine Mitsotakis, for another year (1989-90) by an all-party coalition. To lay the blame for all the perceived ills of Greece today on one man is to perpetuate the most dangerous and absurd of all the myths on which the electoral success of Papandreou's Pasok movement and the cross-party emotion surrounding his departure from political life are alike founded. namely that l'état, c'est moi.

> Yours faithfully, RODERICK BEATON Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Kmg's College London, WČ2

No pastiche for Paternoster

From Mr Paul Fisher Sir: We should have the courage to develop Paternoster Square in a contemporary style or indeed in contemporary styles, representing the diversity and vigour of modern design. There is no reason why the site needs to be developed in a uniform way. Piecemeal development has characterised its history and would certainly be more truly reflective of the nature of the place than monolithic neo-clas-

sical pastiche. And the cry that anything surrounding a "classic" building must be "in sympathy" with it is generally only the cry of the effete. The junaposition of Clare College and King's College Chapel, for example, has itself become a model vista but both are the essence of their own periods. Harmony and proportion can be achieved without cutesy replication of the style of another

Yours sincerely, PAUL FISHER Loudon, W2 12 January

From Mr G. C. Turle Sir: It strikes me that the redevelopment of Paternoster Square needs a special feature to focus attention and make it a worthy site for tourists to visit. A source of interest would be created by the erection of a tower clock comparable in style to the clock in St Mark's Square in Venice.

Twelve ex-prime ministers' statuettes, armed with a hammer, would rotate to strike the time. In the case of Mrs Thatcher the hammer would be dispensed with and a handbag substituted instead.

Yours sincerely, G. C. TURLE Canterbury, Kent

The Pope as a stakeholder

18 January

From Mr Christopher Road Sir: The thinking behind the stakeholder economy, as described in David Marquand's interesting article ("A stake through the heart of old simplicities", 15 January), is strikingly reminiscent of Catholic social teaching. Not widely known in this country, this substantial body

successive popes over the past 100 years and provides the moral arguments for a stakeholder society as described by Professor Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER ROAD London, SW15

of thought has been developed by

15 January

Car worship

Sir. In the week that the Government's chief curriculum adviser complained that morality had become no more than a matter of taste, we have the Church of England breaking the second and third commandments by bowing down to the "motor car" in Coventry Cathedral.

The second commandment, according to Exodus 20, is "you shall not make a carved image for yourself", and the third is you shall not bow down to them or worship them", which in my opinion is what the congregation did yesterday when they allowed a car to be the reason

for the service. When I saw the Bishop of Coventry defending this service with what I took to be a goldplated exhaust pipe in his left hand, I thought, Heaven help us.

Yours faithfully, ALAN CORDER Chard, Somerset

Fergie's pounds lighter after our lunch People who don't know that I write for the Independent sometimes "Not very long ago," I said, "I was financial adviser to the Church of you have only the lunch bill to show the tax people for it. Lunch in St Kitts, £60; transport from office to lunch

ask me what I do for a living. I don't mind that.

Unfortunately, some people who do know that I write for the Independent also ask me what I do for a living. What they actually say is, "Surely it doesn't take you all day to write one

small column?* And they are quite right. I have another job which is entirely separate from my newspaper work. I spend a lot of my time as inde-

pendent financial adviser to the Duchess of York. When she first came to me, I have to admit the case looked hopeless. She wanted to know how to make savings, how to make ends meet and how to balance budgets - in brief, she wanted to know how to turn over a new leaf and be a new slimmer, bud-

get-conscious Fergie "Forget it," I told her. "Scrimping and saving never helped anyone. What you need is a plan. A big plan.

A master plan!" What kind of master plan?" she asked, staring up in rather pathetic awe at the masterful pair of accountant's spectacles I had bought spe-

cially for the occasion. "You are not spending enough," I told her. "You must either spend a lot



MILES KINGTON

less - which is dreary in the extreme or a lot, lot more, which is fun."
"But if I spend more, I shall go bankrupt!" she said.

I smiled in a tiresomely knowledgeable sort of way.

"All the best people are on the verge of bankruptcy," I said. "The United Nations is hopelessly in debt. The Tory party is millions in debt. Imelda Marcos is desperately in debt. The United States of America is desperately in debt. Are any of them going out of business? I think not. Are

they doing rather well? I think so." "Well, what should I do?" "Let's have lunch and talk about it."

"Somewhere in the Caribbean?" I suggested. Her eyes brightened. I was obviously her sort of financial adviser. But

I have often found that it is hardly

worth taking a client out to lunch if

and back, £600, that's my kind of expenses claim.
"So what I suggest is this," I said

to her, as we toyed with our shark steaks in the poshest restaurant in Roseau, unassuming capital of the island of Dominica, which lies enticingly between the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. "I suggest that you embark on a mammoth

"It sounds wonderful," she said. "But won't I end up a hostage to the media? To my mother-in-law? To the Duke of York? To shoe shops everywhere? To you?"

"On the contrary," I said "They will all be hostages to you. A person who owes more than £1m cannot be touched.

"They will try to bring me down," she said. They tried to bring Saddam Hus-

sein down," I said. "The whole world has inflicted sanctions on Saddam Hussein to drive him penniless out of office. He is unmoved. He is stronger than ever." "Are you trying to tell me that it is

safer to owe money than to possess it?"

she said, looking for the comforting

truth in my enigmatic grey eyes.

England. It nearly went bankrupt through property speculation and is now just as strong as ever. President Clinton tells me that at the rate his legal fees are mounting up, he may be bankrupt come autumn. Nick

"Nick Leeson!" said Fergie. "He isn't much of an example. Barings Bank went bankrupt and it didn't help them much." Pardon me," I said, "but Barings

Bank is just as strong as ever. It has just changed owners, that's all. Incidentally, what bank do you use?" "Coutts," she said, "Are you sug-esting that I could do for Coutts what Nick Leeson did for ... ?"

'Well, these are early days," I said. "Good heavens, is that the time? I must be back in the office tomorrow. We had better drift down to the airport. But I have some business to do in Dominica first ...'

"You have clients here?" she said. "I have been asked informally by the British government to sound out the possibility of a Saudi Arabian gentleman moving here. No big deal ...' Readers must have caught my drift by now. Anybody needing top

Sky is good for sport. And we will show it'

Sam Chisholm hardly ever speaks in public. Even in his legendary calls to journalists who write things he does not like, the ticking off – in colourful language punctuated by the odd howl of rage – is prefaced by the warning: "This is off the record; don't you dare bloody use my name." But yesterday the chief executive of BSkvB. a multi-millionaire New executive of BSkyB, a multi-millionaire New Zealander and Rupert Murdoch's top televi-sion executive outside the US, was all smiles, all charm and ready - no, wanting to be quoted.

The uncharacteristic welcome granted the Independent at BSkyB's low-lying, modern modular headquarters in Isleworth, west London, had more than just a social purpose. For perhaps the first time, Mr Chisholm is behaving as though he believes the Government may really be gunning for Sky, Britain's leading pay-television company and the dominant broadcaster of sporting events.

Envious rival broadcasters and backbench MPs from both sides of the House of Commons routinely demonise Sky as monopolistic, anti-competitive and a scab on the body cultural. With the new Broadcasting Bill making its way through Parliament, they have now been given a chance to act. Cross-party support for an amendment to the Bill emerged this week which would provide greater protection for "listed" events - including the Grand National, the FA Cup, the Derby, England cricket, the World Cup and Wimbledon. Current legislation prohibits the broadcast of these events on pay-per-view television. cians now want to keep them off subscription

television, too, a prospect that worries Sky.

The extent of parliamentary support for the amendment is striking. Both the Conservatives and new Labour have been cautiously courting Mr Murdoch, aware of the power he wields through his stable of British newspapers. But here at last was a simple, straightforward issue on which simple, straightforward politicians could agree: sport is part of the lifeblood of the nation and ought to be widely accessible. Football - at least the big matches - is not like any old commodity, bought and sold according to the cold hard market. It is a cultural event, a defining facet of our national iden-tity, in need of special protection.

That this is true, largely, only for men. That regional and class differences weigh heavily in the degree of affection Britons feel for the "national" sport seems not to have been much discussed. Forgotten is how much Sky has already done for football: better match coverage, superior technology for replays and colour commentary and - crucially - more money for the owners of the leading clubs. Forgotten, too, is the fact that Sky provided 9,500 hours of sport last year, 3,000 of them live broadcasts – dwarfing the schedules of both ITV and BBC.

All these issues were tossed aside this week. Instead, many MPs are fretting about how national sport is too important to be left wholly to the market, and worrying about the influence television can have on the very fabric of sport - from switching rugby from a winter to a summer game to suit broadcasters, to changing the timing and length of matches to

accommodate advertising breaks. Thanks to sport and film, Sky has become the country's most profitable broadcaster. Hollywood films and top sporting events such as the Premier League and golf's Ryder Cup have driven satellite dish sales to more than 4.6 million and fuelled subscriptions to Sky's The satellite company is under fierce attack. In a rare interview with Mathew Horsman, its head, Sam Chisholm, defends his strategy

multi-channel package, providing BSkyB with nearly £1bn a year in operating profits. Without the two types of programmes that people have shown themselves willing to pay for, Sky is an unappealing mix of American imports, standard news, and cheap "lifestyle" and

entertainment programmes. In the battle to ensure that market forces, rather than government interference, dictate the economics of sport on television, Mr Chisholm has already lined up an impressive list of allies. Among them are the leading officials of virtually every professional sport.
"What you have to ask is what is good for the sporting community," he says. "Just ask them whether they want the old BBC-ITV monopoly or real competition for rights. Sky is the best thing that has ever happened to British

Hear, hear, say the Football League, the Premier League, professional rugby, even cricket. And why not? As David Dien, vicechairman of Arsenal Football Club, points out, broadcast rights to the next five years of Premier League football are likely to spiral to at least £500m, a far cry from the pairry sums as low as £3m annually - formerly paid by the two traditional broadcasters, BBC and ITV, in

the days of the duopoly.

BSkyB has come back hard, sponsoring an

'Ask the sporting community whether they want the old **BBC-ITV** monopoly or real competition'

industry seminar on Wednesday that pitted sporting organisations against politicians. "We have nothing against a voluntary list of events," says David Elstein, Sky's director of program-ming. "We don't believe it should be legislated against the wishes of the sporting organisations themselves." In other words. Mr Elstein wants the list dropped altogether.

He makes one incontrovertible point: the list is out of date and inconsistent: "Why protect the Grand National and not the Chel-tenham Gold Cup? Why the FA Cup but not

the League Cup? Mr Chisholm scoffs at complaints from politicians that Sky's control of important televised sporting events means fewer highlights on mainstream television. "We made it possi-ble for the BBC to revive Match of the Day," he says. "We have also shared the rights to Football League matches." He accuses one of Sky's chief critics, the BBC, of capriciousness: We went to the BBC and asked for the rights to highlights of the Atlanta Olympics. They said no, we won't share them with you." Intransigence by public service broadcast-

ers here and on the Continent was the main reason why News Corporation, BSkyB's controlling shareholder, bid \$2bn for the European rights to the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2008. "We have given firm undertak-ings that the games would have a wide viewer-ship," Mr Chisholm says. "If News Corpora-tion managed to buy the Olympics, there would certainly be coverage on terrestrial tele-.

The BBC complains that it cannot compete against Sky's deep pockets. But Mr Chisholm finds this astonishing, given how much bigger the BBC's overall budgets are: "If the BBC wants to increase sports programming, it should reallocate spending from other strands. The BBC competes in the marketplace for Noel Edmonds, so why not for sport?" Time, he believes, is on his side: "The technological revolution means more services and more competition. The only constant is change, and television is changing radically. Legislation created in the Fifties is anachronistic.

Anyway, within a decade, he and his senior executives hint, the BBC will be unable to justify the licence fee and will be forced to compete openly, accepting that the creeping commercialisation that already characterises some of its operations under John Birt will have reach the logical conclusion: privatisation.

In the short term, the list of protected events may well be strengthened and politicians will be content. But for them simply to concentrate on sport, when BSkyB's pay-TV stranglehold has more to do with technology, access to satel-lite capacity, its control of billing systems and its exclusive deals with programme-suppliers, is to miss the point.

It misses, indeed, an even bigger point: the changing nature of British society. We no longer all watch the same programmes, nor do we even share the same view of the nation. Television may be fragmenting, but then so are our communities and our sense of how we relate to politics, culture and each other.

More prosaically, constraining the market for sport rights is commercially short-sighted, and not just from Mr Murdoch's perspective. We don't want to limit the possibility of bidding for sport rights on our own account," a rival senior television executive says. "Our real problem is with Murdoch's monopoly, and listng events isn't going to help."

Competition policy ought to provide a remedy, if Sky is truly acting as a monopoly. The Office of Fair Trading is looking at such issues and expects to make a ruling later this year. Pressure from the OFT will do far more to restrain Sky's hold on pay-TV than any single-issue protectionism. But Mr Chisholm is not taking chances and will fight the politicians all the way. "They are wrong, and we can show it. We are a force for good. We have already shown what we can do with football: we can and intend to do the same with other sports."

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB: 'Television is changing radically' Photograph: Reuter



Let's be alcoholics, like in the movies!

K ing Street, Cambridge. Two-thirty in the afternoon. Two girls and a boy. sixth-formers maybe, underboy, sixth-formers maybe, undergraduates maybe. One of the girls, hardly able to stand, wriggles and paws the boy in a drunken parody of seduction. The boy, drunk too, I'd say, but still upright, rolls away from her flailing hands but keeps his eyes on her hiked-up skirt and her twisted blouse. The second girl is sober, concerned, seems to be waiting meekly for the staggering temptress to collapse so that she can drag her away. She must have been bored out of her wits by this grotesque little scene, but she seemed ready to stay for all the time it was likely to take.

Why are the undrunk so tolerant of the drunk? How many times have you seen the sober struggling to get the drunk indoors and out of harm's way, giving up hours to cushion this kind of drug abuser from the consequences of his/her own actions?

All other substances that are capable of altering behaviour and personality as radically as alcohol does are demonised, even when the altered behaviour is social rather than anti-social. Ecstasy is touted nowadays as a dangerous drug. when the deaths resulting from its use are less numerous than those caused by peanut allergy. Alcohol, which is an addictive and dangerous drug that inflicts a vast toll upon the family, industry, the health service and law enforceof those who claim to have their interests at heart.

From the day a student arrives at university, that student will be taught to drink. The breweries and distilleries provide college bars with alcohol of all kinds at reduced rates, just so that students will learn to drink. The rationale is that they will learn how to drink. The truth is that they will learn that alcohol is an essential adjunct to any social interaction.

Some of them have already begun drinking to excess. When I lecture at sixth-form conferences and pop into a neighbouring pub for a beer and a sandwich, I find the bar surrounded four or five deep by sixth-formers, ordering double vodkas with orange squash. How they can have the money to indulge such expensive if revolting tastes is one question that parents might ask themselves. I have never seen a barman ask a single one of these kids for ID. The marketing of fruit squashes heavily laced with alcohol to an even younger age group was be no consolation to know that they clearly based on good research.

Liquor firms have a responsibility to their shareholders to increase their markets and sales at every available opportunity, and in this they are given so why don't they? every assistance. Gone are the days, I hope, when hotel guests retiring to bed puses has become a huge problem.

and brazenness - just the same qual-ities it takes to spend the money in the

first place. You have to pay off your debts little by little, and blame no one



GERMAINE GREER

would find a miniature bottle of brandy on the pillow, for which they had unwittingly paid in the bill for the room. At May balls in Cambridge colleges the cost of a hard-liquor bar is included in the exorbitant price of the ticket. There is no need for any such thing; if tipsiness is the aim, champagne is more than enough. The fact that 19-year-olds can drink as much Southern Comfort as they think they want adds nothing to the quality of the experience.

I have seen beautiful young women in dresses they saved all year for, eyes unfocused, mouths slack, too drunk to move, let alone dance, and the night so young as to be still evening. It can were forced to pay for the wreck of their own good time. The colleges could dispense with the hard liquor bar and reduce the price of the ticket,

Alcohol abuse on university cam-

Even duchesses have debts

Housekeeping staff are often expected to clean up disgusting messes in corridors and public rooms. Some would say that the young are learning from the unpleasant experience of intoxication not to repeat their mistakes, a view which seems to hold that alcohol can be managed, and by everyone, which is clearly untrue. Others would say that they are learning that drunkenness is tolerable, fun even, and throwing up merely laddish. What they certainly learn is that somebody else

Now, to confer Hollywood glamour upon alcoholism, comes a film, nominated for the best film award at Cannes, where the brewers and distillers doubtless do a roaring trade. Leaving Las Vegas begins fairly promisingly, showing us a drunk who is nearly as obstreperous and boring as a real drunk, but romanticism takes over. The drunk wants to kill himself with alcohol, which he accomplishes by pouring full bottles of vodka down his neck at a rate that would have poi-

soned him if it had been water. Kids can kill themselves by skolling whole bottles of vodka, but not seasoned alcoholics. No alcoholic would waste the amount of liquor he spills around the joint, but then no one in the last stages of alcoholism would look half as fit as he does, despite the heavy make-up. No shakes to speak of: no horrors; no peripheral neuritis for him;

no alcoholic gastritis; no Wernicke's encephalopathy. No piss stains on his nice clean trousers. Oh sure, he says he vomits, but we never see him do it, and his not eating in these days of anorexia is pretty cool, specially when he picks the ice-cube out of his glass with his chopsticks. He doesn't repeat himself. ever, oho no. His memory and his speech centres go on working. None of the nastiness, the self-righteousness, the self-pity, the viciousness of the longterm alcoholic sours him.

He is just so sweet he wins the affections of a down-trodden hooker, whom he doesn't force to drink along with him, doesn't bicker with, doesn't hit. You'd never think that alcohol is implicated in most homicides and most domestic violence, to see this guy who succeeds in snuffing it on schedule and, preposterously, on the job.

I have known people who have been killing themselves with alcohol for 30 years; every time they get within reach of their goal, someone picks them up, puts them in hospital and sorts them out so that they can go on drinking. The policemen, ambulance-drivers, paramedics and nurses who have to deal with these pests (who are quite likely to show their appreciation by attacking them and smashing up casualty wards), not to mention the legions of women and children abused by alcoholics, should picket cinemas showing Leaving Las Vegas.

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but yourself. I knew I had no rich parents to help me out; she must face up around people who think you are to the fact that she has no one, either. clever for coming into a lot of money The friends that surround her now fast - and it sounds as if the Duchess has been spending hard to impress the

may well turn out to be like the "friends" who helped me to spend my people around her. money. All my old friends, the people I grew up with, faded away when I won they did not want to be accused of going after my money. In their place came hangers-on, people who were great fun and great friends - as long as I paid the piper. It is hard to live

Viv Nicholson

ANOTHER VIEW

I wonder if she will find, as I did, that her friends will disappear very quickly now she is in difficulties. No one phoned, no one apologised, no one offered to lead me any money. I was left alone with four children to

For a while I am sure she has been denying that she is really in trouble. I used to go out and spend £700 in a day, then the bank would phone up and say they were going to bounce the cheque. It is so hard to let go of that fantastic feeling of freedom - you can buy 10 pairs of shoes and 10 outfits all at once. Then you come home and you have got all these shoes and clothes, and you think, what was that about? Or you give a party - which would cost £2,000 in those days - all

to impress other people. The humiliation of losing all your money is terrible. But you have to take stock of what you have, face up to your

responsibilities and live through it. You swap the big house for a small one, and you sell the car. In the process you discover who really values you, even when you have nothing

to give.

The people I am close to now really want me, not what I have to give - in fact. I am more likely to be sponging off them. I will phone them up and say, "I'm a bit short, can I come over to tea?"

My children have never reproached me for what happened, and I hope Beatrice and Eugenie will be just as

understanding.
I now have a job at a duty-free shop selling perfume, and I live in a small terraced house. But it is a happy house, and there is a room here for the Duchess of York if she needs it.

thanks to excessive spending, it took me back to the days in the Sixties when I won £152,000 on the pools equivalent to £3m in today's moneyand vowed to "spend, spend spend". Four years later, I had spent if all. Of course, the Duchess is in a different position. I am sure that if I had married into a wealthy family I would have expected them always to back me for ever, and have no qualms about it. She must think that she can go on spending and spending and the Queen

When I read that the Duchess of York had an overdraft of £3m,

ility and to stand on our own two feet. The Duchess has to remember now that dealing with debts needs courage

will always pick up her bills. Well, the

Queen has said no and I think she was

right. We all have to learn responsib-

JSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 209

Economy: As the City bets on a further fall in rates by March, buoyant retail sales and improved confidence arouse doubts

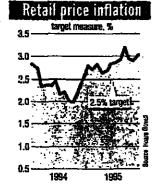
Surprise cut lifts Footsie to record

Economics Editor

Kenneth Clarke cut interest rates yesterday by a quarter point to 6.25 per cent, in a surprise move that propelled the stock market to a record high.

The City is betting on another quarter point cut by March and a further reduction by the beginning of June, bringing rates down to 5.75 per cent. Gilts reacted favourably with the March long gift future rising by

half a point. Yesterday's move brings rates to their lowest for a year and was welcomed by industry and commerce. But the absence of



any endorsement from the Bank of England aroused widespread suspicions in the City that the Chancellor had dictated policy to a reluctant Eddie George, the Bank of

While the FT-SE 100 index soured by 44.5 points to 3.748.7. sterling fell back on the foreign exchanges. The Bank of England's trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies fell from 83.2 to 83, near its alltime low, as the pound weakened against the dollar and mark on fears of a renewed leadership challenge to John

Despite the pick-up in retail price inflation in December, Mr Clarke said he had made the decision "in the light of further evidence confirming inflationary pressures have continued to ease". The Chancellor pointed to stable carnings growth and a drop in factory gate inflation.

growing below trend - had also ed to the decision. The sharp falling away in important export markets, particularly in Europe, was also contributing to slower growth at home.

Further evidence of the seriousness of the European downturn came from Germany, where the IFO business climate index fell from 94.8 in November to 93.2 in December.

In France, meagre economic growth of 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 1995 was con-

Responding to the weakness of the economy, the French central bank cut the key intervention rate by 25 basis points to 4,20 per cent. The five-to-10 day lending rate, which acts as a ceiling, was cut from 5.85 to 5.60

The Bank of England said the absence of any public comment on the rate cut marked a reversion to normal practice whereby the monthly mone-tary meeting remains confidential until the release of the minutes six weeks afterwards. In a BBC interview, Mr Clarke said: "We refuse to give

hints one way or the other. However, the timing of the cut was generally regarded in the City as politically inspired, if justified by the state of the economy. "The economics left the door open but politics must have played a big part in the timing," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, of Paribas Capital Markets.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS, said: "I suspect the Governor might have wanted to wait a bit, but the Governor is no longer a constraint, the only effective constraint is the exchange rate. The Chancellor will press rates down to the limits of sterling's resilience."

Despite this assessment, it seems unlikely that the decision marks a re-run of last summer's open division between Mr Clarke and Mr George over interest rates. When the minutes are released, they are more likely to show Mr George was not pressing for a cut, but neither was he opposing one.

Roger Bootle, group chief economist at HSBC, said: "My nomic slowdown - with manu-facturing output stalled in have acquiesced reluctantly."



Clarke moves despite inflation setback

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent**

The Chancellor's decision to reduce base rates for the second time in two months flew in the face of vesterday's economic statistics. They showed that inflation increased last month, retailers enjoyed a record Christmas and business confidence improved for the first time in nearly two years. This leaves manufacturing the

weakest area of the economy. Figures due next week should fill in the broader picture, with an initial estimate for fourth-quarter GDP and the Confederation of British Industry's detailed quarterly business survey. Growth in the final three months subdued, held back by flat manufacturing output.

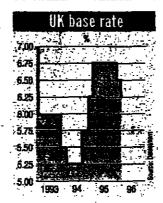
Increases in excise duties announced in the Budget helped take headline retail price inflation up from 3.1 to 3.2 per cent last month. Inflation excluding mortgage interest pay-ments climbed to 3.0 per cent, compared with its 2.5 per cent

Higher duties on petrol and tobacco explained about half of the monthly rise in the retail prices index. However, other components, including household goods and non-seasonal foods such as dairy products and processed meat, contributed to the increase.

The next two months will probably see inflation dip again. There will be less impact Clarke's mini-budget brought extra increases. Lower mort-

gage rates will help this month, surprisingly stubborn." Howand the petrol price war from February.

City economists were divided yesterday about inflation prospects further ahead. Kevin Darlington at the broker Hoare Govett said: "Inflation remains



ever, James Barty at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "Despite the inflation upset this month, the general trend remains downward.

Separate statistics showed that the value of sales set a record in December, reaching a weekly average of £4.2bn. This was 44 per cent higher than the average for the rest of 1995, making it the biggest Christmas boom since the late 1980s. The rate of growth in high street spending reached its highest for

Sales volumes showed an upward trend, increasing 1.7 per cent in the year to December. This was their fastest growth for six months, although lower lier months were revised up. The rollover National Lottery

jackpot will dent January retail sales, but analysts said the trend was encouraging.
On top of the evidence of

buoyant consumer sector, yesterday also brought the first signs of business cheer. Business optimism rose for the first time in nearly two years in the final quarter of last year, according to a British Chambers of Commerce survey.

The BCC president, Robin Geldard, said: "These figures point to a better 1996." Domestic sales had sta-

bilised and exports were hold-ing up after declining earlier in the year, according to the survey. Although big firms shed staff, there was a sharp rise in reported shortages of ing signal of higher wage

Lenders brace for renewed warfare

NIC CICUTTI

Britain's biggest mortgage lenders are poised to renew the home loan price war within weeks if base rates fall by another 0.25 per cent.

Experts said that lenders' refusal to act on vesterday's cut by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was a reflection of the narrowing of margins between their own rates and those of the Bank of England.

If cuts do come, this time they are more likely to be announced from some of the smaller build-

Rob Thomas, a building society analyst at UBS, the Swiss banking group, who predicted earlier downward moves, said: The difference between the base rate and mortgage rate has been compressed in the past few

"If there was another 0.25 per cent reduction in base rates, the societies would probably react very quickly. The omens are good for a further base reduction by the end of March.

"The issue may now be one of whether some of the smaller societies react by pushing down their mortgage rates in an attempt to grab some of the lime-His comments came as big

lenders said yesterday that earlier reductions, which have cut the cost of mortgages by about 0.75 per cent in the past five months, had already anticipated the downward move. Although several lenders, in-

cluding Nationwide and Woolwich, said they were studying the market and would remain competitive, both insisted they had no plans to reduce rates below their current average of about 7.49 per cent. Resistance to a mortgage

rate cut was stiffened by oppo-sition from Halifax and Abbey National both of which have been at the forefront of the home loan price war in recent they saw no need for further reductions in the meantime.

Standard sets tough rules on governance

PETER RODGERS

Standard Life yesterday told Britain's top 100 quoted companies that it expected tougher performance conditions for the award of directors' share options and long-term incentive schemes than those in the Greenbury report.

The request was in a letter to the chairmen of FT-SE 100 companies from Dick Barfield, the chief investment manager, setting out Standard Life's new corporate governance guide-

The Edinburgh-based com-pany manages £42bn of funds and is Europe's largest mutual life insurer, owning more than 2 per cent of the UK equity market, so its guidelines are ex-pected to have a significant influence on company

Mr Barfield said the guidelines covered "pretty well all the points" in the Cadbury and Greenbury reports. But a lot of companies used total shareholder return – share price plus dividends - as the sole measure of performance, which Standard helieved was wrong.

He added that the benefits should be awarded against at least once a year. It plans to

Source: FT Information

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some measure of underlying financial performance such as value added or growth in earnings per share that the managers could affect directly, unlike the share price.

The main features of the guidelines are advice to separate the roles of chairmen and chief executives, a fundamental plank of the Cadbury report, and the appointment of effective inde-

pendent non-executive directors. There must be comprehensive disclosure of remuneration, and incentive schemes must reward directors for high performance, not mediocrity.

Standard's letter also recommends that directors' service contracts should not exceed one year, rather than the two to three years widely practised now. Although Greenbury said there was a strong case for one-year contracts, its recommendation was hedged, and Standard appears to be making

the point more robustly.

Mr Barfield said: "Corporate governance is not a box-ticking exercise. Adherence to the spirit of our policies is the key." Standard Life already votes

as a matter of course at all shareholders' meetings and meets all the top 100 companies vet compliance with the guidelines and will also ask smaller companies in which it holds shares to observe them - although the request will probably be made in meetings, not by

sending a letter to the chairmen Mr Barfield said Standard already had a policy of identify-ing underperforming companies and telling them if they were seen to be following the wrong

If the share price did not reflect the problem and manage-ment did not listen, one outcome would be to sell the shares. If the problem was already in the share price, Stan-dard would tell the company it should think about changing management, probably by talking to the non-executives, who under Standard's guidelines would include the chairman.

In hostile bids, Standard does not automatically support the incumbent management. Mr Barfield said the company had not yet made up its mind about the Granada bid for Forte.

Standard's letter came a day after lan Irvine, chairman of Reed Elsevier and Reed International, said companies should be free to ignore parts of the Cadbury code on corporate governance.

Grand Met leads in £200m Walker battle

JOHN WILLCOCK

Financial Correspondent

Grand Metropolitan won an important round in its £200m dispute with Brent Walker yesterday when the High Court ruled that the sale of its William Hill and Mecca business to George Walker seven years ago should be re-interpreted. Brent Walker said yesterday

that it will study the judgment and then decide whether to appeal. The dispute centred on a disagreement between George

Walker, the former chairman of Brent Walker, and Lord Sheppard, the Grand Met chairman, on the accounting standard used in Grand Met's £685m sale of the betting shop business to Brent Walker in 1989.

Walker maintained that Lord Sheppard had guaranteed at the time of the sale that the business would make profits of £55m in its first year, which it did not. Grand Met, however, said it had used acquisition accounting to show profits of £58m for the business in the year to Septem-

ber 1989 and Brent Walker should have been aware that William Hill's one-off costs would be charged to profits. Yesterday the court ruled that

the agreement on the sale should be "rectified", a legal term which means that Grand Met is not disnuting what the contract says but that the contract does not reflect what it thought it had agreed.

The High Court ruling, said Grand Met, "will ensure that the agreement is interpreted in the same way as both parties in-tended at the time it was made."

"Arthur Andersen is currently arbitrating on the dispute between the two companies, and the ruling by the High Court forms part of the arbitration process. Grand Met remains confident of the outcome of this arbitration process."

Brent Walker has not yet

decided whether to appeal, but is still keen for the dispute to be cleared up as soon as possible, according to its finance director,

MATHEW HORSMAN

goes through.

Forte yesterday predicted that

Granada could lose up to one-

third of the management fees

from Meridien, the hotels

group, if its £3.9bn hostile bid

The luxury hotels and restau-

rants company, which is in the

final desperate stages of

defending its independence,

said the loss of contracts could

icopardise a sale of the Meri-

dien chain, which Granada has

£50m of the £685m and counterclaimed for up to £200m plus interest. Grand Met took the dispute to court and won. It also won the subsequent appeal.

Grand Met said it did not pursue Brent Walker for payment of the £50m in view of the latter's financial crisis. The Arthur Andersen arbitrator was appointed in 1992, since when George Walker has been ousted from the group and Brent Walker has fre-John Leach, yesterday. quently hovered near bankrupt-ty. Its debts now amount to Walker refused to hand over £1.4bn despite disposals.

Forte steps up

war of words

in bid battle

Vodafone to challenge Orange with £15m advertising campaign

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

odafone, the leading mobile telephone operator, is chal-lenging the growing popularity of rival newcomer Orange with a nationwide campaign that

will treble its direct advertising spend to £15m. The programme will coincide with the introduction of new lower charges from Vodafone hich could spark a fresh round in the mobile price wars, with Cellnet, the other big operator. expected to follow suit.

The campaign emerges as

Orange prepares for a stock

market flotation which some The focus has moved to the high City analysts say will value the street and in Orange you have company at about £2bn. Orange, owned by Hutchison Whampoa and British Acro-space, has declined to comfirm plans for the listing but an announcement clarifying the situation is expected next week.

Orange was launched 21 months ago and has only 380,000 subscribers compared with Vodafone's and Cellnet's 2.3 million each. But it is acknowledged to have become a serious player, particularly in the growing consumer marketplace. A spokesman for Vodafone said: "The market has changed.

a well-branded product.

"We are seen as establishment and perhaps have been viewed as being mainly for busi-ness customers. But in fact over half our base are consumers." ange had had a "run at the mar-ket" with substantially lower tarrifs while its network was be-

ing built. The comment implies that Vodafone, which had previ-ously said its higher charges

were justified because of its superior coverage, now plans an attack on all fronts.

CURRENCIES

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promised as part of its asset disposal programme. Nine owners could terminate their management contracts immediately, Forte said, and warned that a domino effect could induce a other owners to follow suit. Patrick Copeland, Hotels Director at Forte, said that in the light of the question marks over the Meridien contracts, "Granada's ability to realise £2.1bn proceeds from its

nlanned asset sales look illfounded and unrealistic." Granada has said it would raise £500m from the sale of Forte's 68 per cent stake in Savov, the motorway service opcrations and a stake in Alpha, the catering group. Another £1.6bn would come from hotel sales, including the Meridien chain. Yesterday, Granada dis-

missed Forte's warning on Meridien - and warned that the latter's promised international expansion was unlikely to be a success, in the light of Forte's

"past track record in this area." Meanwhile, it emerged last night that a provisional deal by Forte to sell its restaurants and budget hotels business to Whitbread has attracted the interest of competition authorities. According to informed sources, Whitbread is prepared to sell four Travelodge hotels close to sites in its existing portfolio, in order to avoid a reference.

Sir Rocco Forte yesterday continued his discussions with small shareholders, who are believed to be more likely than institutions to vote against the hostile bid.

Analysis continued to predict a victory for Granada, although some said the outcome remained close. Mercury Asset Management confirmed yesterday it had sold an additional 5m shares to Granada in response to the TV and leisure company's bid for a 9.9 per cent stake. MAM is expected to tender its remaining shares to

Granada by the time the bid closes on Tuesday. Granada closed 3p higher at 696p, while Forte was 4p stronger at 381.5p.

FT-SE 100 refices Bay's change Change (%) 1995/96 High 1995/96 Low Yield(%) 3748.70 2954.20 3.81 FTSE 100 4080 10 <u>3300 90</u> 3.61 1857.40 1482.40 3.77 1993<u>11 167861 3.15</u>

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INTEREST RATES

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COMMENT

While there are some early indications of a pick-up in retail spending, the stagnation of manufacturing production and the plight of construction are hard realities'

The right decision on rates, despite the timing

Kenneth Clarke is a man in a hurry – and Mr Major's latest tribulations explain why. If the electoral timetable were not pressing upon the Garagnesia and the first of the state of the sta ing upon the Government, who can doubt that the Chancellor would not have chanced his arm on cutting interest rates on a day

when inflation edged up?

Like the dog that didn't bark, the silence of the Bank of England offers an eloquent clue to Eddie George's preference. The Governor was doubtless at pains to avoid being boxed into another corner opposing the Chancellor. But he is unlikely to have turned over a new leaf. Given the evidence of a pick-up in retail sales in the final quar-ter of 1995 and the buoyancy of both broad and narrow money. Mr George would almost certainly have preferred delay. After all, the two of them were due to meet in just three weeks' time on 7 February.

But if a week is a long time in politics, how much more so would three weeks be to this government drowning in a sea of troubles. Not for the first time, Mr Clarke has had to throw a lifebelt into the water. Politics may be back in the driving seat of monetary policy and the new monetary arrangements which were supposed to give the Bank so much more discretion are proving an illusory bargain for Mr George. Britain seems no closer to a stable framework of counter inflationary policy.

Yet taken on its merits, the decision was

spending, the stagnation of manufacturing production and the plight of construction are hard realities. As the Chancellor himself said. the downturn in Britain's export markets is contributing to the slowdown in the economy.

This is the real storm cloud that threatens to break. The downturn in the German and French economies has occurred much more quickly than anyone anticipated. Most economists think the easing in monetary pol-icy by the German and French central banks will lead to a bounce-back in the sec-ond half of 1996. This looks like wishful

At the still centre of the storm is the flagging German economy. The powerhouse of the European economy - that's the usual byline, but if so, a powerhouse running on half empty. With the mark painfully over-valued, Germany seems set to follow Britain's earlier example of deindustrialisation when sterling soared into the stratosphere in the

Mr Clarke will be able to hear from fellow finance ministers and central bankers when they turn up for the G7 meeting in Paris tomorrow. The dangers of a flagging world economy are now firmly on the agenda - and not before time. But without an uncharacteristic rush of blood to the head the right one, even though it would have looked more credible if it had been delayed early relief to conditions of near recession

negligible.

Too much debt will slow Railtrack down

Nothing, barring an early change of government, is now going to stop the flotation of Railtrack, scheduled to occur in May. Labour continues to insist that it has some kind of nuclear weapon up its sleeve that will so thoroughly deter investors that the company becomes unsaleable. We have yet to see what that is, however, and for the time being it can only be assumed that Labour's threats are just bluff. Even so, there is an unnerving amount still to be settled about this flotation. given the closeness of the final countdown.

As yesterday's board meeting was made

only too aware, the most important issue is the company's level of debt. This may seem like one just for the accountants, but the truth is that if rail privatisation is to fulfil its underlying commercial purpose - the modernisation and improvement of the rail network - Railtrack's capital structure is crucial. The more the debt write-off, the greater the capacity of the Railtrack balance sheet to take on infrastructure projects - Crossrail, Thameslink and the second phase of West Coast line modernisation among them.

On present debts of £1.7bn, Railtrack

company should be left with that kind of burden. But with its usual priority of maximising proceeds, the Exchequer does want to keep the write-off as small as possible.

This is short-sighted. Rail privatisation has already cost the Government huge amounts of political goodwill. Having doggedly stuck it out thus far, and with so little money in it for the Treasury anyway, it would be the height of folly to surrender so much of the supposed benefit of privatisation for the sake of a marginal and short

lived improvement in public finances.

On the other hand, it would plainly be wrong to sell Railtrack in totally debt-free form. That would make it look too much like another privatisation giveaway and would encourage senseless diversification to boot. There is nothing wrong with a bit of debt, but the Treasury extreme of £1bn would only prove rail privatisation's many and vociferous opponents to have been right all along.

Unichem strategy convinces the City

Unichem has come a long way since its days as a drugs wholesaling co-operative. In the five years or so that the company has been listed on the stock market, it has built itself into the nation's biggest inde-

would be cash-negative for many years; there would be precious little new investment of any sort. Even the Treasury isn't arguing the chain as well, creating a new household name on the high street - Moss.

The sharp rise in the share price which accompanied news of Unichem's £548m bid for Lloyds Chemists suggests management has convinced the City of the merits of this strategy. Short-term cost savings and the potential for fatter margins mean that for the next two years at least, the deal should

enhance earnings per share.

The deal also looks good for Unichem on asset grounds, regardless of any supposed synergies. Roughly speaking, the bid equates to £430,000 per pharmacy, not bad in the antiquated world of prescription chemists where licences have been known to change hands at £500,000 apiece. Lloyds could yet attract a counter from any number of general retailers trying to break into this tightly controlled market.

Trends in the market too may make it imperative for Unichem to increase its size. We have yet to see what impact last year's acquisition of rival wholesaler AAH by Gehe of Germany has on the market place, but it seems probable it will make it more competitive. Meanwhile, the shift of household goods and toiletries sales away from the high street to supermarkets has proved bad for groups like Lloyds, which followed a drug store approach to retailing. Unichem is rightly emphasising the importance of the pharmacy side of the business and plans to take Lloyds firmly back in that direction.

Unichem-Lloyds deal creates biggest chain of chemists

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Unichem, the pharmaceuticals retailer and wholesaler, yesterday agreed a £548m offer for rivals Lloyds Chemists to leapfrog Boots as the UK's largest chain of chemists. The combination will result in a chain of 1,300 retail outlets, 100 more than Boots the Chemists, which will trade under the Moss Chemists name. Unichem will also lead the market in drugs wholesaling, with a share of

around 35 per cent.

Jeffery Harris, Unichem's chief executive, said the takeover offered the company a unique chance to create one of Europe's strongest healthcare groups".

ing offered 232p in cash plus three shares they own, or a partial cash alternative of 600p in cash and 2.327 shares for every three in Lloyds.

News of the deal sent Lloyds' shares 35p higher to 401p, well above their previous peak of 379p hit two years ago, after soaring 75p on Wednesday when the company first revealed the approach. Unichem, which said the acquisition would be earnings-enhancing in its first year, saw its shares jump 19.5p to 258.5p.

The deal will double the size of the company, trebling its re-tail market share from 3.5 per cent to 11 per cent and raise its

stake in the wholesaling market from a current figure of 32 per

Despite its vastly improved market position, Unichem expects few problems from the regulation authorities. It is understood that management has been in discussions with the Office of Fair Trading for over a month and is well aware of any likely requirments to meet competition concerns. Mr Harris said: "We believe

the retail merger would create no difficulties for us. You would expect that, as our market share is very similar to Boots in that area." However, he said they did expect to be forced to sell two of the 10 warehouses owned by Lloyds' Daniels Pharmaceuti-Lloyds shareholders are be- cals prescription drugs distribution business, on top of three of over a quarter of the Super-

Unichem expects to reap savngs of £15m in the first full year of the merger, rising to £20m in the second. Having completed a review of Lloyds' sites, the expectation is that 30 of the 924 pharmacies will be disposed of and several head offices closed. Unichem estimated pre-tax profits of at least £49.3m in the vear to last December, up from

£44m in 1994, before expected rationalisation costs for Lloyds Out of flat earnings per share

Lloyds' directors, led by

chairman Allen Lloyd, have

recommended acceptance of

the bid. Mr Lloyd, who is on a

two-year contract at £510,000 a

year, owns or controls a 7.5 per

cent stake in the company, val-

ued at £38m under the terms of

the offer. He has committed his own beneficial holding to the

Lloyds has only recently started to rehabilitate itself af-

ter several years when it faced

criticism in the City for its ag-

gressive use of acquisition pro-visions, lack of financial

information and shortage of in-

dependent voices on the board.

Takeover rumours have swirled

round the company since last March, when its shares plunged

after it announced the closure

of 18.8p, the company intends to pay a final dividend of 5.3p, raising the total for last year by 12 per cent to 8p.



Sweet success: Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, was cheered by the football club's record interim results, announced yesterday

Player sales prove a winner for Spurs

DAVID HELLIER

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday reported half-year profits of £7.14m due largely to the early season £5.5m sale of Nick Barmby to Middlesbrough. The sale was seen as controversial at the time, given that it came on top of the departure of Jürgen Klinsmann who left after a oneyear stay to play in Germany. Excluding player trading, the core business of the company £2.33m against £590.000 last tenham Hostpur.

The growth excluding player transfers was due mainly to increased revenues from new sponsorship deals with Hewlett Packard and Pony, higher television fees, higher gate receipts, and increased profits from merchandising.

Alan Sugar, chairman, said the record interim results were pleasing and continued to re-

produced a half-year profit of flect the true potential of Tot- rector, conceded that a rights is- lar basis. Attendances were

The company's share price certainly reflects the renewed optimism surrounding the football club as an investment. In September the shares were 167p on the announcement of the annual results. Yesterday they touched 254p, a high for the year and a 5p increase on the day after the interim results

announcement. John Sedgwick, finance di-

if the club decided to develop its North Stand at White Hart

Lane to increase capacity by 3.500-4.000. The cost is likely to be around £6m but there has no been no decision yet on whether the project should go ahead. He said a decision to go

ahead would probably be taken only if the ground's current capacity (around 33,000) continued to be tested on a regu-

Bleak outlook for Fokker

sue might be a financing option now very strong, after a slow start to the season, he said.

A dividend of 1.5p per share is being paid to shareholders, which should be worth around £120,000 to Mr Sugar, who owns nearly half the shares. Recently the club announced its intention to instigate a progressive dividend policy in the hope of attracting more insti-tutional shareholders to buy and hold the stock.

Virgin named for Gatwick rail service shortlist

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

ric steps t

ar al ward

a Millimille

Richard Branson's Virgin group has been shortlisted for the rail franchise to run the Gatwick Express shuttle service between the airport and London's Victoria station.

In a statement issued while Mr Branson is trying to fly around the world by balloon. Virgin said it was very pleased to have the chance of using its "wide ex-

to run the trains. Virgin faces competition for the franchise, which is one of four for which bids are due on 1 March, from a management buyout team, the bus group Prism, and possibly one other.

Committed: Allen Lloyd,

who owns 7.5 per cent

Gatwick Express, the smallest franchise on offer, is one of the few on the rail network which faces direct competition from another operator running

pertise from the travel industry" a very similar service. Network which operates Gatwick air- SouthCentral - where it has fray to try for the East Coast SouthCentral, one of the other franchises now being offered, provides a slightly slower and slightly cheaper service from Gatwick to London.

The winner of the Gatwick Express franchise will not be responsible for any stations and will provide a simple shuttle operation, making it attractive to existing travel businesses such as Virgin. However BAA,

port, has not pursued its initial interest.

The list of bidders for the other three franchises reveals no new names from those involved in the first round, which involved two successful managment buy-outs and one private success, Stagecoach. The bus company again figures in the list, having been shortlisted for East Coast Main Line and Network

formed an alliance with the management team - but has failed to obtain Gatwick Express

or Midland Main Line. The existing management teams are bidding for all four franchises on offer this time. Other bidders include Prism, Compagnie Generale des Eaux which is interested in Network SouthCentral, and Sea Containers, which has re-entered the

The first three franchises are expected to start operating in the private sector on Sunday 4 February, according to transport industry sources. The transfer has to take place early in the morning when no trains are running and public relations specialists are desperately trying to find a way of giving the services a good send off.

they would have been charged

However, it appears that Mr

Bax, in particular, gave considerable assistance to the CAD and was sufficiently trusted to be allowed out of the country

at least twice on business and

once for a family holiday. He

was about to leave Singapore

again, with the permission of the

CAD, at the time the inspectors'

report was made public.

alongside Leeson.

The future of the beleaguered Dutch aircraft maker Fokker looked bleak last night as rescue talks reached deadlock. Fokker shares plunged 20 per cent after the company's parent. Daimler Benz. and the Dutch government, failed to agree on a capital injection. The Daimler board meets on Monday to decide its next step, but analysts were pessimistic. Ben van Schaik, Fokker chairman, said: I still haven't given up hope that we can reach a solution, but the chances are getting smaller."

IN BRIEF

Select Committee calls in BZW

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the Government's advisers on privatisation of the nuclear industry, have been summoned to appear before the House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee next Tuesday. The Comittee is conducting a wide-ranging enquiry into the planned sale but BZW had argued that, as its advice to the Government is confidential, it might not be appropriate for it to give oral evidence in public. The bank is expected to be questioned on the industry's multi-billion pound liabilities.

Bristol & West shuts out 'carpetbaggers'

Bristol & West Building Society yesterday moved to shut out "carpetbagging" speculation on a possible flotation or takeover by raising to £2,500 the minimum needed to open new Select, Share. Premier Saver and Premier Accounts.

Spanish losses prompt Guinness warning

Guinness warned that full-year profits would be hit by a further £39m restructuring in Spain - bringing the total charges disclosed this year to £64m. The shares closed 14.5p down at 474.5p, wiping almost £300m from the stock market value. Guinness said further cuts were needed because the Spanish market was flat.

Jobless figures boost Dow

Shares and bonds rose in the US after new figures suggesting the economy remained weak. The Dow was nearly 20 points higher at 5085.69 by early afternoon and the yield on the benchmark long Treasury bond fell below 6 per cent. But the dollar fell slightly due to profit taking. New unemployment claims fell by 67,000 last week, the lowest figure since the end of Julyalmost certainly explained by the East Coast blizzard.

£28m fraud hits Hongkong Bank

Hongkong Bank has been hit by a £28m fraud at its main branch in Jakarra, Indonesia. Approximately £5m has been reconcrete, said the UK parent HSBC Holdings. The fraud was unconcreted on 3 January by internal controls. HSBC said the fraud has no material effect on the bank.

--- Girobank

Girobank announces that

with effect from

close of business

on 18 January 1996

its Base Rate was

reduced from 6.50% to

6.25% per annum.

Girobank plc. 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EO Reg. No. 1950000

Singapore's Finance Minister, Richard Hu, yesterday indicat-ed that a decision was imminent on whether further arrests would be made following the imprisonment of Nick Leeson in the wake of what he called the

Barings "fiasco". Mr Hu was answering a parliamentary question about whether further prosecutions would be made in the light of the Singapore inspectors' report into the affair which made accusations against a number of

Barings executives.
"The Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) has been pursuing these leads", Mr Hu said. They are in the process of finalising their report. Let us wait for it. It should not be long."

The two men most clearly in the firing line, because they are stationed in Singapore, are James Bax, former managing director of Barings Asia Pacific and Simon Jones, former chief operating officer of Barings South Asia. Both men remain in the island state with their passports held by the authorities.

However the report does not suggest that either played any

Decision on more Barings arrests expected soon

Former directors await Singapore's next move. Stephen Vines reports from Hong Kong

trading in Japanese stock ex-change futures, which triggered the wake of the Barings collapse

the collapse of Barings.

Mr Bax worked entirely on the equities side of Barings' business while Mr Jones was essentially an administrator. Mr Jones did not administer the company's futures trading business as Leeson was authorised from London to conduct his own "backroom" work.

However, they were both directors of Barings Futures (Singapore) and therefore may be held technically responsible for the collapse of the company. which triggered the downfall of the entire Barings edifice.

have a particular problem with

the futures market trading. The Singaporean authorities

Mr Bax because at the only of- Jones, it is almost certain that

The inspectors handed over their report to the Minister of Finance last September. However, the outlines of its contents were known around last July. Had there been a strong case against either Mr Bax or Mr

last February they highlighted a letter he sent to his superiors in London warning of the lack of control over Leeson's activities, pointing out that despite his position, he had no role in supervising Leeson's work. The authorities used this letter to The authorities are acutely demonstrate that Barings had been warned, from the inside,

about the problems arising in

Other Barings directors in the wake of the Barings collapse London, such as Peter Norris. the former chief executive officer of Barings Investment Bank, were slated in the report but can only be returned to Singapore after extradition proceedings which would have to prove the existence of a criminal offence under English law.

> aware of the dangers of moving solely against the expatriate directors based in Singapore, not least because of the signal it would send to other foreign investors with staff stationed there. Morcover, such a move might encourage foreign directors of companies based in Singapore to leave at the first

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Crunch time arrives for Forte

Granada vs Forte: crunch time

Pre-tax profits compared. Em

Forte

It is crunch time for Forte shareholders, cent-a-year in prospect, a market rat-who must make up their minds by Tues-ing is not a demanding price to pay for day whether to accept Granada's £3.9bn a proven management team, and a debid for the hotels group. With only days to run, it is a close call and for once the release even more value. Accept the 15 per cent of Forte's shares in private cash and shares offer and hold on. shareholders' hands might have an influence on the outcome.

In what has been a dramatic, highly personalised bid, the management records of both sides have been wellrehearsed. Forte shareholders are aware, and the chart below confirms the aware, and the chart below communs me fact, that over the past five years their company has been a dismail performer compared with Gerry Robinson's Granada. But that is of little conse-gent Street store. Placed at 185p in May 1004 the shares been contracted the quence now - looking forward they have to answer three questions.

What will happen to their Forte shares if the bid fails? Should they sell in the market? Or should they accept Granada's cash and paper and hold on?

Forte has attempted to pre-empt the first question by attempting to create a floor for its share price at 330p with the offer of a share buy-back. But this will only go ahead if it enhances earnings, so it is hardly a copper-bottomed promise and the shares are still likely to be valued on fundamentals. As a much more cyclical business now it has agreed to sell its restaurants operations, a small discount to the market on forecast earnings is reasonable - this implies

a share price in the 300p to 320p range. Is the bid a fair price? Yes, if not a knockout blow. At a 32 per cent premium to Forte's share price before the offer, it represents a prospective p/e ratio of 25 and as Granada's share price rises, so does the value of the offer.

At yesterday's close of 696p, almost back to its pre-bid level, Granada's share price values Forte at 388p, leaving the value of the 362p cash alternative well behind. The latter is no longer relevant with Forte's shares yesterday at 381.5p. The other full cash option, selling in the market, only makes sense if you believe either that the bid will fail or that Granada will not continue to be a good bet.

So the last question is the most important. How good an investment will Granada be? Probably a good one. The company has a plausible programme for extracting value from the Forte businesses it plans to keep. There is considerable scope to improve margins in its rental arm and substantial prospects for growth in its television operation.
With compound growth of 12 per

merger further down the track could

Hamleys magic attracts adults

even after yesterday's 3p fall to 335p. The price dip came in the wake of Schiphol airport offset lower revenues news that underlying sales in most of Hamleys' stores registered a 5.9 per cent rise in sales in the five months to leys also continues to expose the Christmas. That is less than the doubledigit growth recorded by some high street retailers recently, but it is high-

ly respectable none the less.

Granada

gift-orientated retailer like Hamleys. The group reckons to generate around a third of its sales between the English half-term at the end of October and Christmas Eve. As it turned out, the latest festive period was the third in a row in which it broke records.

The core Regent Street store, which still accounts for three-quarters of group sales, saw a 6.6 per cent rise in business. August to October traded ahead of the previous year and while November slipped a bit, December more than made up for it.

Elsewhere, the group's newer ventures continue to power ahead. Those trading under the Hamleys name were 1994, the shares have outperformed the nearly 36 per cent up. Strong growth rest of the market by over 60 per cent, at Heathrow and Covent Garden and new shops at the Channel Tunnel and inadequacy of House of Fraser, where its House of Toys concession clocked up a 21 per cent like-for-like sales increase compared with little more than Christmas is obviously crucial for a 2 per cent growth from the host store.

With group trading continuing to be strong into January, Hamleys looks easily capable of lifting profits by flm to £6.2m in the 12 months to the end of this month. That makes the shares a strong hold on a forward p/e of 18.

Careful footwork at Tottenham

Investing in football clubs is rarely a guarantee of a steady ride but the trials and tribulations that have beset shareholders in Tottenham Hotspur since it came to the market have been enough to try the patience of the most equable investor.

Tottenham's shareholders, as well as their supporters, have suffered their fair share of shocks. Football Association fines, the sudden loss of Jürgen Klinsmann, the wrangling with Terry Venables - all have buffeted the share price.

But in recent months there has been relative calm. At last Alan Sugar, the chairman, appears to be getting the business as well as the team in order and the shares have responded. In September, when the annual results were announced, the shares stood at 167p. Yesterday they were up 5p at a new high of 254p on the back of halfyear results that showed profits of £2.33m, excluding player transfers, and an interim dividend payment of 1.5p per share.

Can the shares go higher still? On the downside there is the fom or so that may

be needed to develop the North Stand to take capacity at White Hart Line up to around 37,000. Mr Sugar might decide he wants to eash in on part of his near-50 per cent investment. And the team manager, Gerry Francis, will almost certainly want to put his hand in the pot to sign new

Against that, the increased revenues from television, sponsorship deals and merchandising these days give football clubs a much larger potential for profits. In Tottenham's case merchandise sales, sponsorship and advertising represent 37 per cent of turnover.

Shareholders intending to buy into the stock probably need to tread as carefully as ever given its recent steady rise. On the other hand there is a growing feeling that the City is at last warming to the attrac-tions of football clubs, viewing them more favourably as leisure businesses with real growth potential. Be warned, however, the shares are extremely illiquid.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Robin comes rolling out of the financial ashes

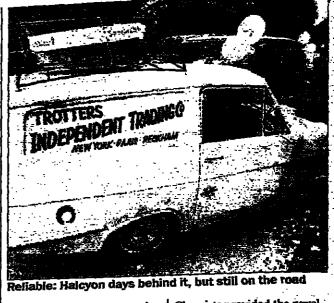
The three-wheeled Phoenix that is the Reliant Robin is rising from the ashes of insolvency - again. Reliant Motors, which went bust for the third time in four years just before Christmas, is up for sale, proving that the fibreglass horror can still survive in the face of industrial logic after more than 60

"Dealers are crying out for the car," said administrator Kevin Murphy. So far we have had 50 inquiries for the company, some of them very serious.

Unfortunately, this sudden show of interest came too ate for the bulk of the workforce. The administrators sacked 95 people only last week. That leaves Reliant - a subsidiary of the private engineering components comoany, Avonex - with just 12 employees and about 80 cars in production – a far cry from the halcyon days of the mid-1970s when it turned over more than £30m and employed 3.700 people in even factories. Then the Robin (which is still taxed as a motorcycle) was being produced at 330 a week, taking remarkable 1.25 per cent of the UK car market.

Nothing, however, could disguise the fact that the Robin had a tiny engine, uncertain road holding, limited uggage space, and a price tag that made it more expensive than many four-wheelers. And when Reliant's much-acclaimed Scimitar GT and GTE (Princess Anne did wonders for sales when she

The financial tribulations of the scatterbrained Duchess of York have the insolvency profession salivating like Pavlov's dog. John Alexander, head of insolvency at Pannell Kerr Forster, points out that the Duchess could face bankruptcy and might like to consider the more palatable alternative of an "individual voluntary arrangement". He notes that as a bankrupt the footloose one could be turfed out of her rented home PDQ. Not so under a voluntary deal where creditors could allow her time to adjust to a more frugal lifestyle.



was caught speeding in one) began to get too long in the tooth it was downhill all they

Evidence emerges that Lazard Brothers is taking its role as adviser to Granada too seriously. Lunch guests at the merchant bank yesterday were astonished to be served a mixed grill consisting of bacon, kidneys, sausages, fried mushrooms

and (of course) chips. Limp chips to be precise.
They'll be selling petrol

City advisers are moving east in their increasingly desperate search for takeover bid code names. Yesterday's £550m agreed bid by

Chemists provided the novel tags of Ukraine and Latvia. Students of current affairs will quickly realise that this represents a dangerous precedent that can only lead to tears before bedtime. Suppose the bid target had been dubbed Checknys (yes, I know it doesn't begin with C. but just suppose). You can imagine the potential for confusion given the current

"It could have been a lot worse," agrees a Ukrainian adviser.

The chatter in telephone circles is that it will be an American who eventually takes on the vacant chief executive role at Cable & Wireless. The telecommuni cations giant has already changed its articles of association to allow a foreign-born leader and the name in the frame is Dick Callahan, the statesmanlike president of US West International one of the higgest cable companies in the UK. Mr Callahan has the advantage that he is already based in London.

Laura Ashley loses out in US fashion stakes

RUSSELL HOTTEN

furnishings retailer, were hit by a poor US reception to the com-pany's winter clothes ranges.

The company, one of several retailers to report mixed trading fortunes, said sales for the 24 weeks from 30 July were 1.7 per cent up on 1994 on a like-for-like basis, and broadly flat in total.

year, and 2.5 per cent ahead in

Laura Ashley saw a big im-provement in UK sales, up 12.2 per cent in the eight-week period on a like-for-like basis. But in North America sales fell 7.7 per cent.

The company said that the

Pre-Christmas sales at Laura for-like sales were 4.8 per cent pany's garment offer for this brands were strong sellers.

Ashley the fashion and home up on the same period last market". In Continental Euthe same eight-week period

Share prices relative to FT-A All Share, rebased

rose 7.1 per cent. grew on a like-for-like basis by 8.6 per cent. Recently relitted stores achieved a sales increase

ACCOUNT TITTE

In the eight weeks immedi-conditions, combined with the period. Thornton's Continental

1996

rope, like-for-like sales over ton, chairman, added a note of caution. "This performance, although good, has not recovered Meanwhile, Thorntons, the the sales lost during the very hot chocolate group, said sales in the four weeks to 24 December of franchise units during the last year continues to have a significant impact on our business at the present time. Alternative US decline was "due to market of 15.6 per cent over the same outlets are sought," he said.

Also yesterday, WEW, the for me to make any observation was 6 per cent down on the

same period last year. James Millar, recently appointed chairman, said: "While there is some encouragement in the improvement in like-for-like sales since last November, there is clearly an enormous task ahead in seeking to turn WEW around, and it is much too early

ately before Christmas like- poor acceptance of the com- Assortments and Premier discount retailer, said that on progress in that direction." for-like sales were 4.8 per cent pany's garment offer for this brands were strong sellers. to the board of its trading com-pany. What Everyone Wants.

From early February, Terence Boland, unrelated to chief executive Richard Boland, joins from Etam as buying and merchandising director for fashion. Kevin Gunter, formerly of Asda and Sears, becomes retail operation director.

L&G sees life market

recovery NIC CICUTTI

Legal & General, one of the UK's largest insurers, yesterday joined the growing chorus of life companies claiming evidence of a slight recovery in the market. despite announcing a significant fall in its UK annual premium income during 1995,

It said annual, or regular, premium income for 1995 was £123.4m, down from £135m a year earlier. L&G's single premiums fell to £542.9m compared with £680m in 1994. The decline in individual new life and pensions business came against a background of significant falls in the level of new business across the industry". Over the first nine months of the year it had increased its market

share, however. David Prosser, group chief executive, said: "After a poor first quarter in the UK, Legal & General made an excellent recovery, with individual new annual premium business in the second half of 1995 exceeding that in 1994. I believe that we have gained market share in 1995 due to our competitive and enhanced product range." Shares in L&G rose 19p yes

terday to 700p, reflecting the view that its business figures were better than expected. The company also said yes-terday that the Department of Trade and Industry had backed

its proposals for a special bonus to be added to L&G with-profits policyholders. The bonuses will be paid in March. Lloyds Abbey Life, the bancassurance arm of Lloyds Bank, yesterday announced an 8 per

cent fall in regular premiums for 1995 to £121m. But the company's single premium business rose 36 per cent

Meanwhile, Abbey Life Assurance boosted sales of single premiums from £225m to £395m, largely based on a rise in sales of life products, which rose by 160 per cent to £257m. | (7)

IN BRIEF

Losses widen at Magnum Power

Pre-tax losses at Magnum Power, the uninterruptible power supply maker, widened to £1.37m from £1.2m in the six months to £329,000. The company admitted that increased revenues had taken longer to achieve than anticipated, but said this was not uncommon for businesses marketing new technology-based products. During the half-year, there was a loss per share of 3.07p compared with a 3.36p loss the previous year. There was once again no dividend. The shares closed 4p lower at 123p.

Neotronics in red after restructuring

Despite higher sales in all regions except North America. Neotronics, the instrumentation group, fell into the red in the year to September. After a £614,000 charge to finance large restructuring, last year's profit of £1.08m was reversed into a pre-tax loss of £680,000. The dividend was maintained at 0.85p despite a loss per share of 2.69p (3.62p profit). Paul Gotley, chairman, said that the restructuring and heavy investment in Neotronics Scientific had resulted in sales and profits growth this year, which were expected to continue.

Hill & Smith improves to £5.5m

The mini-industrial conglomerate Hill & Smith Holdings saw profits jump 16.5 per cent in the year to September, despite a slow-down in the UK market for some industrial products. Pre-tax profits increased from £4.8m to £5.5m after a 14.5 per cent rise in sales

After a 25 per cent increase in earnings per share to 10.78p, the dividend was maintained at 6.2p. With continued growth in Hill's new ventures in plastic pipe and pipe supports and a return to the black for its French forging business, the company forecasts further gains in the current year.

Ashanti to mop up Cluff

Ashanti Goldfields is to compulsorily purchase the 5.5 per cent of Cluff Resources that it has not already acquired under its £80m unconditional offer for the company. Investors are being offered one Ashanti share for 12 Cluff units. There is also a cash alternative.

Buyer wanted for UKAC

Mayne Nickless, an Australian group, is looking for a buyer for its UK armoured car division, UKAC. The business, better known under its trading names of Security Express and Armagard, employs more than 2,800 people and had a turnover of £67.5m in the year to last June. It operates 52 branches in the UK

Premier Land optimistic on prospects

Desmond Bloom, chairman of Premier Land, said prospects were encouraging for the property company whose assets include the Aviemore skiing resort. The portfolio is valued at £81.9m, compared with £62.6m at the end of 1994. In the absence of dealing profits, however, the group posted a pre-tax loss of £1.97m. There is no dividend.

Trading 'positive' at Scholl

Scholl, the footwear group, said the positive trading performance of the first eight months had continued for the full year. Gordon Stevens, the chairman, said the restructuring of the business continued to proceed well. The trading update came at the same time as Michael Gatenby, former head of corporate finance and vicechairman of Charterhouse Bank, was appointed a non-executive

	COMPA	Y RESULT	S				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend			
Brecawiola Res (F)	-(-)	-0.20m (-0.18m)					
Kelion (1)	h66.4m (h61.5m)	h3.81m (h2.71m	*(.20 (*0.20)	nii (niii)			
Hill & Smith (F)	87.8m (76.6m)			0.95p (3.72p)			
Magoon Power (I)	329m (29.6m)	5.53m (4.75m)	10.78p (8.64p)	6.2p (6.2p) ·			
McKay Securities (1)		-1.37m (-1.21m)	-3.07p (-3.36p)	nii (nii)			
	<u>-(-)</u>	1,40m (1,46m)	4.4p (4.6p)	21p (2.1p)			
Mestrenics Tech (F)	20 1m (19.9m)	-0.68m (1 08m)	-2.69p (3.62p)	ni (0.85p)			
Pattenhars Hetsper (1)	20.1m (11.7m)	7.14m (2.06m)	34.1p (8.6p)				
Yega (1)	7.26m (5.7tm)	1.27m (1.02m)		1.5p (n#)			
(F) - Paral (I) - Insuran	UU 10	(1.02m)	5.90p (4.76p)	1.75p (1.40p)			

Base Rate ANZ Grindiays Bank plc

ANZ Grindlays

announces that its base rate has changed from 6.50%pa to 6.25%pa with effect from close of business 18th January 1996.

ANZ Grindlays Bank Private Banking

> 13 St.James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF Telephone: 0171-930 4611 Member ANZ Group

Hill Samuel **Base Rate**

With effect from the close of business on Thursday 18th January, 1996 and until further notice, Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

6.25% per annum

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rare will be varied accordingly.



Hill Samuel Bank Limited - 100 Wood Street - London EC2P ZAJ

Barclays Bank PLC.

Interest Rates for Business Customers, Charities and Societies with effect from 18th January 1996.

ACCOUNT TITLE	+GROSS	*NET
	RATE	RATE
	(% P.A.)	(% P.A.
BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT. (Rates also apply to		
Parmers Premium Account) - instant access,	1	
£0 - £4 9 9	2,375	1.781
£500 - £1,999	2.375	1.781
£2,000 - £24,999	2.750	2.063
£25,000 ~ £99,999	3.250	2.438
£100,000 - £249,999	3.500	2.625
£250,000 – £1 milion	3.625	2.719
HIGH INTEREST BUSINESS ACCOUNT - 14 days' notice.	1	
£2,000 - £9,999	3.375	2.531
£10,000 ~ £24,999	4.125	3.094
£25,000 - £99,999	4.625	3.469
£100,000 - £249,999	4.875	3.656
£250,000 +	5.000	3.750
CLIENT'S PREMIUM ACCOUNT	 	
£10,000 - £24,999	3.500	2.625
£25,000 - £99,999	3.750	2.813
£100,000 - £249,999	4.125	3.094
£250,000 - £999,999	4.250	3.188
£1 million +	4.375	3.281
BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT, (An interest bearing	1	
current account for clubs, charities, churches and societies.)	1 1	
No minimum balance. Interest paid quarterly.	1	
£0 ~ £4,999	0.750	0.563
£5,000 - £9,999	1.250	0.938
£10,000 - £24,999	1.750	1.313
£25,000 +	2.250	1.688
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. (A seven days' notice		
account.) No minimum balance. Interest paid half-yearly.	0.500	0.375

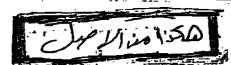
† GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of in tex at the basic rate.

*NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income exe at the current basic rate from the gross rate. Busic Rate Tox (BRT) may vary and therefore the net rate is given as an illustration only. BRT will only be deducted in those cases where the Bank is obliged to do so. Interest rates quoted are subject to variation. For further information on these or any other services please contact your local Bardays branch or Business Centre who will be pleased to help.

BARCLAYS

Bardaya Bank P.L.C. Reg. Landon, England. Reg. No. 1026167. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

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market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3,748.7 +44.5 FT-SE 250 4,058.2 +22.6 FT-SE 350 1,857.4 +19.5 SEAQ VOLUME 945.6m shares, 40,027 bargains Giits Index 96.34

Record day leaves investors waiting for more rate cuts and a poor trading report un-settled WWE, which shed 1.5p

Records were smashed yes-terday as the Chancellor surprised the market with a quarter-point cut in interest rates. The FT-SE 100 closed at an all-time high of 3,748.7, up 44.5 points on the day. Trading was heavy with almost 950 million shares changing hands

in 40,000 deals. Rumoured and actual takeover activity provided a further fillip to the session. The advance in prices was not confined to the leaders; the FT-SE 250 index registered a 22.6 point advance to 4,058.2.

The rate cut may have been a surprise, but investors were yesterday anticipating further reduction in the near future. Gilt-edged stocks finished the day

Standard Chartered, meanwhile, advanced 15p to 590p on further rumours of a sale of its Asian securities business to Nava Finance of Thailand.

The waft of cheaper money whetted appetites on the revalue of the structure of the re-tailing pitch. The principal high street groups made useful ad-vances, notably Argos, up 4p to 579p, Kingfisher, ahead 6p to

544p, and Marks and Spencer, which rose 8.5p to 446.5p. Only 11 of the leading 100 shares recorded falls. Guinness, down 14.5p to 474.5p, was the biggest faller after wrongfooting investors with a further £39m reorganisation charge, principally relating to its Cruzcampo brewing business in Spain. The fallout from the charge, which



MARKET REPORT JOHNSHEPHERD

price of around £10.50.

rolled out its expected agreed

£548m bid for Lloyds Chemists, up 35p to 401p. The deal will make Unichem the

largest high street chemist in

terms of the number of outlets,

but second behind Boots, a pen-

some said further adjustments to the numbers might be nec-essary. The news winkled out plenty of sellers, and by the close of play more than 10.5 million Guinness shares were traded. For the rest of the leaders,

there was only one direction upwards. British Aerospace climbed 29.5p to 864.5p, large-ly on the back of the Henderson Crosthwaite broking house advising clients to buy after estimating a break-up value for the group of £12 a share.

to 15.5p.
Rumours about a possible

takeover of Vaux, the Sunderland-based regional brewer, refused to die down. Vaux climbed 10p to 299p, a high for 1996 and just a penny below last year's peak. Wolverhamp-ton & Dudley, viewed by some observers as a suitor, held to rise, seeing a medium-term Speculation about the next takeover targets increased as Unichem, up 19.5p to 258.5p, observers as a suitor, held

steady at 592p. There was plenty of takeover gossip elsewhere to keep speculators happy. Sims Food group, which fell out of bed after announcing another profits warning on Wednesday, the in demand and climbed To was in demand and climbed 7p to 38p on talk of a possible bid move by Global Group, off 0.5p to 17.5p.

sion raced ahead 35p to a high of 722p on fresh bid spec-ulation. Granada, despite be-ing preoccupied with its fight

to buy Forte, and Carlton, up 14.5p to £10.42p, are the favoured bidders. Granada, meanwhile, continued to look more and more the likely victor against Forte. Shares in Granada rose 3p to 696p - around the level they traded at when the bid start-

to 381.5p.

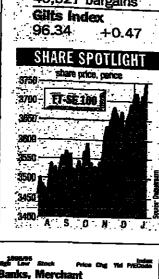
The Savoy Group, up a full pound on Wednesday, gained 10p to £11.30 and looks set to be a takeover target if Granada takes Forte under its wing. Stakis remained in demand,

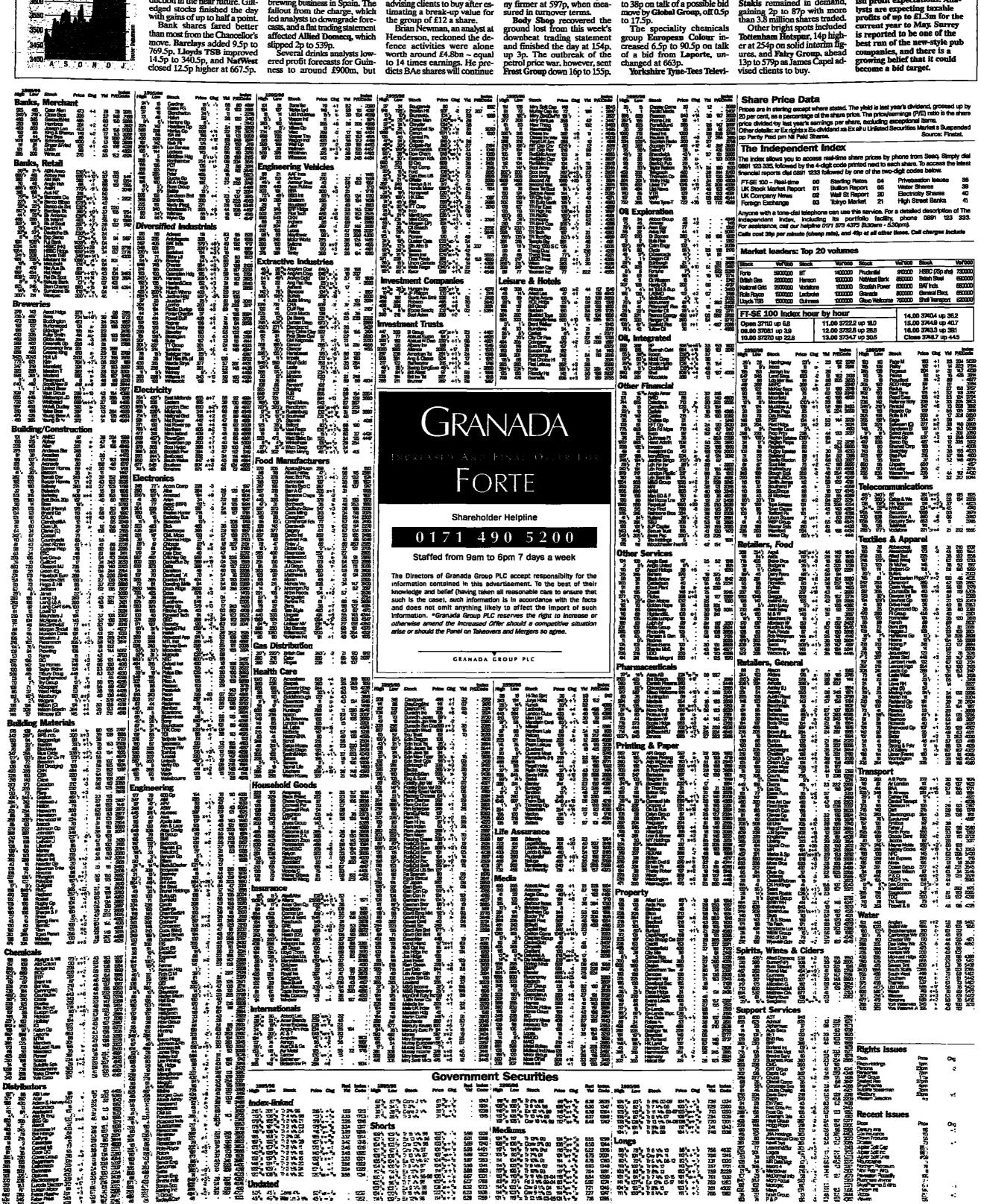
ed in November. Forte rose 4p

TAKING STOCK

Shares in Geest, which recently sold its bananas business to Ffyles, were lively as some institutional buyers ap-peared. The price shot up 13p to a two-year high of 237p. The rise sparked fresh rumours that Geest, principally a prepared foods group, would soon fall to a takeover bid. Hillsdown Holdings, which firmed 2p to 179p, is the main name in the speculative frame.

Surrey Free Inns, the pub company traded on AIM, fin-ished 2p better at 127p amid some talk that analysts may have to upgrade already bullish profit expectations. Analysts are expecting taxable profits of up to £1.3m for the current year to May. Surrey is reported to be one of the





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Pipe dream continues with another century

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

Martin Pipe passes milestones like a Greyhound bus and the most prolific trainer of modern thanks to everybody concerned, he's made a brilliant remost prolific trainer of modern times had another landmark in his rear view mirror yesterday as he reached 100 winners for the 10th consecutive season.

It was fitting that Pipe should record the figure at Taunton, which is both his local course and the arena that has seen other notable moments in a career that began modestly in 1977. In that year Hit Parade gave the trainer his first winner at the Somerset track and it was also there that he reached his first

50 winners eight years later. In September, in the neighbouring county, Pipe also posted a figure which lends testament to his enduring ability when at Exeter Runaway Pete became his 2,000th winner.

Yesterday's red-letter horse was All Clear, who was almost the target for a bullet after his last racecourse venture, "All a bad fall at Wincanton last because he has been a victim,

time," Pipe said. "He was so bad we thought he'd broken a shoul-der and I kissed him goodbye in the racecourse stable. But,

Earlier Pipe's Chaprassi had the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle sewn up when his closest pursuer the highly-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Brackenthwaite (Catterick 2.50) NB: Barna Boy (Kempton 2,30)

regarded Mister Morose fell two flights from the finish. David Bridgwater's celebrations with his employer were truncated when the rider was given a four-day suspension for his robust effort (particularly

with the whip) on All Clear. The Pond House stable jockey is 18 winners behind the pacesetter, Tony McCoy, in the championship and will almost Clear is lucky to be alive after inevitably drop further behind

"At certain meetings recently there have been jockeys being a lot more severe than I was," he said. "There seems to be inconsistency among the stewards. I come here and drive one out to win the race and then I get four days. It's unbe-

"I will have a word with the Jockeys' Association secretary Michael Caulfield about the ban, but at the moment I do not intend to appeal, even though it rules me out of the big Cheltenham meeting on 27 January."

David Gandolfo also contributed to the numbers game when Garrylough provided him with his 800th winner, but the most appreciated victory of the afternoon was Killeshin's success in the marathon handicap

When his trainer, John Manners, emerges with a cup of tea each morning at his Swindon yard it is not destined for his spouse, it appears. "I think more of this horse than my wife as I ride him all the time at home, rounding up cows," he

be some celebrating tonight." Manners' glee was apparent facially, though his words were less distinctive. "Tve got my best gear on - as I thought he'd win - but I've forgotten my false teeth," he said. "So don't ask me many questions.

This was Killeshin's first triumph since capturing the Foxhunters' Chase at Aintree in 1994, and he is now likely to return to Merseyside for the Grand National. Further success there would

provide for Manners' funeral expenses. "If we win the Grand National I think I'll die," he said. But I'll give him one more run before then but I don't know where," he added.

secure a bonus of £50,000 and

Mark Perrett was knocked unconscious when his mount, Hullo Mary Doll, unseated him in the Yarcombe Novice Handicap Hurdle at Taunton. Brought back in an ambulance, the jockey was then taken to Musgrove Park Hospital for a precautionary x-ray examina-

Lincoln market sharpens up

The market for the Lincoln Handicap on 23 March burst into life yesterday with Sharp Prospect and Beauchamp Jazz

attracting support. The former, trained by Reg Akehurst and a runaway winner of the Spring Mile consolation event last season, kept the Ladbroke phone lines busy and was been supported down from 25-1 to 12-1 favouritism.

Similarly, Beauchamp Jazz, trained by champion trainer John Dunlop, was the subject of some hefty support down from as high as 33-1 to 16-1. One punter staked £1,000

each-way on the Gay Kellewaytrained Samwar at 33-1 with the Tote, who subsequently brought the four-year-old into 20-1. Among the other horses to

Callaghan's Tarawa, Mary Reveley's Billy Bushwacker and The Queen's Beyond Doubt a springer from 33-1 to 12-1 joint-favourite with Ladbrokes. Latest betting with William

Hill, the race sponsors, is: 12-1 Sharp Prospect, 14-1 Beyond Doubt, Tarawa, 16-1 Beauchamp Jazz, Billy Bush-wacker, Decorated Hero, Delta Soleil, 20-1 others.

CATTERICK

1.20 to Good Faith 1.50 Beggars Banquet 2.20 Malawi 2.50 Brackentinwaite 3.20 Political Tow-er 3.50 Master Of The Rock

GOING: Good (good to firm in places). Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 340yds.

Racecourse is north-west of town on A6136. Dartington rall-way station is 14 miles away - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Caub 511; Tattersalls 57; Course 52.50 (under 16s free into all enclosures). CAR PARE: Members \$2, remainder Free.

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WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNESS: Rather Sharp (3.20) travels 280 miles from C L Popham's West Bagborough stable in Somerses. Lumbson (2.50) covers 201 miles from J Pearce's Newmarket yard in Suffolk. Greenway Lady (1.20) & Fighting Treat (2.20) travel 201 miles from Miss A Embiricos' Newmarket stable in Suffolk. Singlesole (3.50) covers 162 miles Mrs P Sty's Thorney yard in Cambridgeshire. Master Of The Rock (3.50) travels 121 miles from J Mackie's Church Broughton stable in Derbyshire. Glen Mor-ven (2.50) covers 120 miles from W T Kemp's Borders yard.

1.20 NORTHERN ELECTRIC SERIES HURDLE

+	(CLASS E) £3,400 4YO 2m
	ROYAL EXPRESSION (80) (D) Miss M Reveloy 11.5P New
1225	WALLE COMPOSION LOOK TO WERE BELEVIOUR TO THE LEGIC
12	GREENWAY LADY (51) (D) Miss A Embricos 11 0
00	ABSOLUTE FOLLY (6) Mcs S Smith 10 12 Mr C Months
00	BOLD TOP (55) B Rothsell 10 12R Soppl
	COOL TACTICIAN C Parker 10 12 D Parker C
	ENCHANTED COTTAGE M Hammond 10 12 A Dobb
5	EUROLINK THE REBEL (51) M Hammond 10 12R Gamid
	FASSAN M Hammond 10 12R Burns (1
	IN 6000 FAITH (13) J Quint 10 12
2 000	LEEDONS PARK (6) M W Easterby 10 12 Callagtia
r coo.	MAJOR SNUGFT (34) M W Easterby 10 12
?	TAKE A RIGHT N Chembertain 10 12B Store
3 004	THREE WILD DAYS (13) T Tate 10 12
;	TOP FELLA (USA) P Dette 10 12 N Self
;	WHAT'S SECRETO (USA) H Alexander 10 12L Wys
5	CRAMBELLA A Smith 10 7M Brensh
•	LATCH KEY LADY (USA) R Woodhouse 10 7 D J Kevenagh (S

6-1 Three Wild Days, 12-1 Major Snagth, 14-1 others

	-			
		L.50	EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,400	HURDLE 2m 3f
	1	2414-61	BRANCHER (34) (CD) J Norton 5 11 10	W Pry
	2 3		BEGGARS BANQUET (52) P Beaumort 6 11 0	
	3	0	BRIDLE PATH (8) M H Easterby 5 11 0	L Wyer
ì	4	00	CASTLE RED (34) / Wade 5 11 0	_D Ryso (7)
ł	5		CONDENANTE (34) Marryn Wans 6 11 0	
i	Ē		MONYMAN (14) M Hammond 6 11 0	
1	7	056-	NAMECYS CHOICE (235) I Cheateon 6 11.0	Harding (3)
ı	8	0-0	CLEVER'S MATE (14) P Denns 6 11 0	Gratten (7)
-	9		MESS LAMPLIGHT (13) F Maragh 6 10 9	
	20		POLLY STAR (9) L Lungo 6 10 9	
1	11	3124	PACHAEL'S DAMN (46) J Eyre 6 10 9	0 Pears

1995: higetonian 6 11 2 D Bentley 6-1 (B E Williamson) 16 can

LINGFIELD

1.00: 1. T000 (A Ctrl.) 11-4; 2. Jade Venture 8-13 favourie; 3. Callonoscy 8-1, 9 rm. 1, 9. (P Machell). Tota: £4.20; £1.10.

£1.10 £1.90 Dual Forecast: £2.30. Com-

1.10, £1.90. Dus Forecast £2.50. Com-purer Straight Forecast: £4.86. Thus £3.00. 1.30: 1 CARROLLS MARC (I Wesser) 12-i: 2. Mittels 11.4 for; 3. Herry 14.1. 15 ran. 1. 2*3. (C Marray). Totac £13.70: £3.50. £1.10, £11.00. DF: £21.50. CSF: £48.44.

Tricast £465.30. Trio: £114.40 (part won, pool of £132.20 carned forward to Catterick 2.50

Streind S-1; 3, Hand of Strew 20-1, 12 ran. 5-2 to Penicus Pight (4th), sht-hd, 1½ (R 0 Subrant, Tota; £6.50; £2.50, £1.90.

£10.40 DF: £14.20. CSF: £37.32. Trio:

22.60. 2.30: 1. YOUR MOST WELCOME (G Catter) 9: 2: 2. Errant evens lay; 3. Gasador 6-1. 8 ran. sht-lid, 3. Di franch Davisi, Totac 53: 61. 10, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £3.70. CSF:

5.30; f. 10, f. 10, f. 1.50. Dr. 13.70. Csr. 13.24. After 3 stewards industy, the placings in the distribution of the placings in the placings.
 3.00: 1. RAMONE IC Rusen 14-1; 2. Fort. Names 8: 1; 3. Navingtion Buths 11-1. 13 ran. 15-8 tar Pageboy, nt, nd. (C James). Total: £10.90; £2.20, £2.40. £5.10. DF: £59.20. CSF: £120.29. Treast: £1,189.11. The: £13.40 target f. £7.22 camed for the page for the first 22 camed for the page for the first 22 camed fo

£121.40 (part won, pool of £87.23 carned forward to Camerick 2.50 today). NR: Thick As

3.30; 1. SIR NORMAN HOLT (D Biggs) 20-

3.30: 1. SIR NORMAN HOLL (D. 1999) 32-1: 2. With Streethery 11: 8 Earl, 21. Never Golf Ledy 10: 1. 14 ran. 1: 2. 3-2. (R. O'Sullivan). Tota: 52: 30: 55: 30, 51: 20, 59: 00. Oual Fore-cas: 52: 80 CSF- 550: 18. Treast: 53: 1.08. Tot: 51:43.50. 4.00: 1. SCAUGHG (J. Wester). 4-1: 2. In-vocation 12: 1: 3. Robellion 7-2. 11 ran. 5-2 fav Mitos. 3, 15. (P. Burgoyne). Totac 56. 70: 52: 20, 52: 90, 52: 40, DT. 555: 50. CSF: 551: 29. Texast: 51:76. 40. Tro. 577: 00.

*THE INDEPENDENT

Horse Racing

Results 0839 - 111 171

Commentary 0839 - 111 175

Der Manadaparate Michaeler († 1. 465 5964) Die Charged at 195 par miss character 195 par miss at all action times.

RACELINE

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168

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CATTERICK 102 202 302

	22 0	STAYERS £5,000 a	NOVICE	CHASE 1f 110ye	(CLASS	E)
1	1P-3211	MALAM (14) \	N Bethall 6 12	3	A\$5	
2	4-42412	RUSSIAN CAS	TLE (34) / Wad	e 7 11 11	D	-
3	PFY-2	FARMER'S HA	NO (35) 9 EBs	m 9 11 5	B Handle	(B)

SETTIME: 4-5 Makes, 9-2 Master Of Troy, 7-1 Temple Garth, 8-1 Russ-ian Castia, 9-1 Fighting Trout, 12-1 Famuer's Hand, 18-1 others

2.50	DINSDALE COND. JOCK HLRDLE (CLASS G) £3,0	EYS' SELLING H'C XXX added 2m 3f

-		THE NAME (ALTOS OF ESPOOL STORY SHE
1	622313	BRACKENTHWATE (7) I. Lloyd-James 6 11 11 E Cellagha
2		REVE DE VALSE (USA) (57) Davys Smath 9 11 9 R Burns (
3		ALMANZAR (USA) (6) N Tirkler 6 11 7 E Rosbar
4	4345-02	TREWEETHAN (43) Mrs S Austr 7 11 5
5	5-11264	HIGHLAND PARK (35) (87) R Codes 10 11 3
6	D/-00606	HADEHTON LAD (15) J Paries 7 10 13R McCarthy (
7	3//570	GLEN MORVERN (263) W remp 10 10 12F Perra
8	431675	TOLL BOOTH (237) J Charton 7 10 11
9	16-3223	GOLDSHEE (58) (BF) W Timing 6 10 10
10	4457-640	SAFARI PARK (8) W Bethell 7 10 10 G Cabi
11	06-P200	LAMBSON (7) J Peace 9 10 2 L Aspe
12		WILLE BUTT (2253) Mss. S Willemson 11 10 0 D Ryan (4
		THOMAS RAND (15) M Docs ? 10 0F Leek
14	05500/0-	DOLLY PRICES (443) W Smith 11 10 0S Ponits (7
		4.4 destarra

SET IVEZ 3-1 EXCLUSIONEMENT, "A PRESIDENT FORD," AND ALL SERVICES STARS, TO SERVE, 12-1 Haugiston Lad, Lambson, 14-1 Glan Morvern, Safard Park, Thomas Rand, 18-1 others 1995; Bold Pursut 5 11 0 E Cafagten 7-1 U G Forgerati, 15 cm

STOKESLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS

Ŀ	5.ZU	D) £6,000 added 2m 3f	,
1	122-122	POLITICAL TOWER (41) (C) R (Scan 9 12 0	M Dwy
2		ISSYRI (89) (CD) M W Easterby 9 11 9	
3		JUST FRANKE (34) (C) Mrs M Reveloy 12 11 4	
4	3221/36	PRECIPICE RUN (S) G Raterts 11 11 2	_A Dobb
5		CROSS CAMBION (7) (SE) Helens 10 11 1	

3P-3S3U WAIT YOU THERE (USA) (7) (C) H Alexander 11 10 8 ... Wyer 134-533 SATHER SHARP (38) (C) C Pophen 10 10 0 T Descende (S)

Minimum weight 10st. True handisap weights: Pather Sharp 9st 7th.
BETTRICE 5-2 Cross Canton, 11-4 Political Tower, 4-1 Issyin, 13-2 Just
Frankle, 9-1 Precipion Bun, 12-1 Rather Sharp, Wait You There 1995: Valuer Warner 7 10 13 D Bendey 4-1 (M D Harsmond: 9 cm

3.50 COWTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,400 added 3m 1f 110yds

1	1	2U12-35	LEEN DE FAMILLE (95) (C) / Quera 6 11 10	Duy
- 2	2	315/4/0	DESERT MIST (21) Mass L Street, 7 11 9	in the
3	3	120111	MAS(ER OF THE ROCK(32)(CO) J Lincole 7 11 7 E Husbi	eed (
4	1		TROCOOS (34) (CD) Mrs S Austra 10 11 2 D WB	
5	5		SINGLESOLE (48) M/s P Sv 11 11 1 R	
ē	_		NEW CHARGES (30) P Beaution; 9 10 3	
_	7		COLDEN NURGET (34) E Alson 9 10 0	
-	į		STRONG MEASURE (14) P Cheestruch 8 10 0 R	
	•		-8 declared -	
	_			

Minimum weight 10st. True handicup weight: Strong Meesure Sat. BETTREG: 2-1 Matthet Of The Rock, 7-2 New Charges, 9-2 Colden Neg 5-1 Lives De Frandle, 8-1 Stuglesvile, 10-1 Troodos, 18-1 others 1998: Temple Garth 6 10 12 C Handrin 9-2 IP Beaumout 6 ca

£4.00, £3.20, DF: £192.50, CSF: £249.63. Tricast: £3,165.15, NR: Mustahi.

TALINTON

1.20; 1. HIGHTONN CAYALER () Horrs)
9-2; 2. He's A King 14-1; 3. Teleority's GM
3-1 fac, 12 ran, shirth, 12. R Hatgas, Somet-ton), Total et 59.9; 2.00, 53.00, 51.90, 07; £39.60. CSF: 556.62. The set £193.60. The: £47.30. NR: Set Market.

33-1; 2. Chast Along 11-2; 3. Valiant To-id 4-7 fex. 18 ran. 12, 3-2, fW Cay, Fullord). Tota: £44.20; £4.50, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £96.80. CSF: £211.75. Tor: £131.80. 2.20: 1. KILLESHIN (S.C.mar.) 12-1; 2. Vi-

2.20: 1. NILLESPIN (S. Carar.) 12-1; 2. Vi-compt de Valmont 12-1; 3. Brackonfield 14-1. 11 ras. 3.1 fav Scriye Bay (Sp.) 3. dist. (H. Manners). Tota: £12.50; £2.00. £4.50. £7.40. DF. £39.70. (SF. £121.63. Treast: £1,741.71. Tro: £221.00. 2.50: 1. CHAPRASSI (D Bridgedes) 7-4; 2. Tom Pinch 50-1; 3. Hanging Grove 50-1 12 ras. 13-8 fav Mester Morose (fish.) 25, 4. (M Pipe). Tota: £3.00: £1.10. £3.60. £5.50. DF. £39.50. £5.45. Briz: £168.80. NFs: An-other Hutblick, Solder 8. 3.20: 1. GARPRILOGOI (a) Dwyer) 11-2; 2. Coolree 7-2 far; 3. Southampton 7-1. 14 ras. 1. 9. (D Gandolfo). Tota: £5.50: £2.10. £2.40. £2.10. DF. £17.20. CSF. £24.78. Treast: £130.49. Tro: £28.60.

£130.49. Tree: £28.60. 3.50: 1. ALL CLEAR (D Bridgester) 7-1; 2.

Lake Kariba evers for, 3. Allow 16-1, 12 ras. 2-2, 6, (M Pipe), Totas 57,10; 52,30, £1,60, 53,40, DF: £8,60, CSF: £14,45, Theast

23.40. OF: 58.60. CSF: 514.45. Treast 5111.31. Tree 560.50. NR: Krg's Gold. 4.20: 1. DRESS DANCE (Soghe Mischell 20-1: 2. Goldingo 14-1; 3. Society Gonet 12-1.13 ran. 4-1 as Spors View (Sch. 7. 174. IN Mischell), Tota: 535.50; 53.70, 54.00, 52.20. DF: 5192.50. CSF: 5249.63. Treasts 53.65.15. Tree 5392.20. NR: Missterial.

L50: 1. SCOTTISH WEDDING (Guy Lews

Place 6: 526.31, Place 5: £17.76.

KEMPTON

HYPERION 1.00 River North (nb) 3.00 Great Easeb 1.30 OCEAN HAWK (nap)

3.30 Repeat The Dose 4.00 Swinging Sixtles 2.00 Crosa's Delight 2.30 Barna Boy GOING: Good.

Elight-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200 yds.

Racecourse is on A308 at Subbary. Bus link from Richmond Underground station. Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls \$10 (16 to 25est-olds) S8; Silver Ring S5. Accompanied children under-16 free, CAR PARK: Members

🚉 remander, free. SIS PACING

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: N J Henderson — 17 winners from 65 run-MILEADING TRANSCESS WITH EURORISES: N J BERNETSON — 17 winners from the run-ners at a ratio of 26.2% giving a profit to a 51 stake of 513.36; M C Pipe — 14 winners, 60 runners, 23.3%, +522.83; J T Gifford — 14 winners, 94 runners, 14.9%, \$10.12 D Nichol-son — 12 winners, 63 runners, 19.9%, \$25.66 O Sherwood — 10 winners, 44.22.7%, -\$12.27 K C Balley — 9 winners, 46 runners, 19.6%, \$7.09 D R C Eleworth — 9 winners, 61 runners, 14.8%, +\$12.23.

51 rimners, 14.6%, +512.23.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: J Osbarne — 25 winners, 125 rides, 19.8%, -511.90 R Durswoody — 22 winners, 104 rides, 21.2%, -524.82 M A Pingerald —13 winners, 62 rides, 21%, +510.58 A Magnire —12 winners, 82 rides, 14.6%, -528.20 N Williamson —11 winners, 51 rides, 21.6%, +53.37. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None

WINNERS IN LASI CEPTAN MAIS: POUR.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Chrie Boy (2.00) & Grest Baseby (3.00) travel 291
miles from W Storey's Muggleswick stable in Co. Durham. Bedeo Star (2.30) covers 220

□	miles (rom N Tinkler's Langton yard, in North Yorkshire.								
	1.00	EXTRA DAYLIGHT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV added 2m Penalty Value £2,918	/ I) £4,000						
11			Çşbardê						
2	111-F2P	ROBERT'S RDY (105) (D) (Cine D Smith) M Pape 5 11 4							
3		ARCTIC THURDER (USA) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) Lady Herres 5 10 12	برخوهانا كيهيه						
14	45	ART TATUM (50) (A F Memit) Mrs M McCourt 5 10 12	& McCourt						
15	_	ELLINDSEN BOY (Sk Cristopher Wates) J Goldon 6 10 12	P Hide						
l š	р.	CLOCK WATCHERS (368) (W R Shere) J Brother 8 10 12	W NicFarland						
17	•		Lawrence						
l ė		POIL STONE (Lady Howard de Wakten) Mrs. J Carol 5 10 12	T Kent						
Ιğ	00	HYLTERS CHANCE (14) (Mrs Karda Varri) P Hobbs 5 10 12	G Tormey (3)						
1 II		LORD WELLINGTON (175) Outs T McCoubrest J Jenkins 5 10 12							
1 11		NEW ALBION (USA) (50) (The Barrow Boys) N Henderson 5 10 12	M A Filosopald						
1 2	2 5	REVER NORTH (12) (BF) (P D Savil) Lady Hernes 6 10 12							
1 1	ī -	RUNIC SYNEROL (D Span) M Blanshard 5 10 12							
1 7		SCOTTISH BALLEY (10) (William J Kelly) P Webber 8 20 12							

Pelliny - 14 declared - SETTING: 10-11 River North, 5-1 Robert's Toy, 6-1 Karshi, 15-2 Arctic Thunder, 20-1 Art Tatum, Stansder Boy, Foll Stane, 33-1 Lard Wellington, New Albina, Scottlish Bambi, 50-1 others. 1995: No corresponding meeting

FORM GLIFDE

The few hurdiers Lady Hernes has are nearly always decent Fist recens and it's bad luck that Arcite Thunder and RRVER NORTH have been drawn in the same division. Arcite Thunder is a smart middle-distance handcapper on the Fat and is an admirably tough soft who should have the right resolve to make a successful hurdier, but he might just need this first at tempt, just as River North did at Sandown 13 days ago. River North had figured in the Chempon Hurdle betting long before he had jumped a hurdle in anger and was favourite for Sandown's Tolworth Hurdle won by Right Win. The Sandown race was a hor one and he is definitely worth another chance. Robert's Toy has almost as much experience over hurdles as the other 13 put tigether and has to be respected on that score alone. A winner of his final three starts last season, he was conceding 8th when number-up to another decent Flat horse in Wishing at Cheltenham back in September. Selection: RIVER NORTH.

1.30 WALTON HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £3,061

531P22	OCEAN HANK (USA) (13) (D) (Mass J Broadhurst) N Twistor-Develo 11 6
	DOMAPPEL (34) (D) (M C Banks) Mrs J Ceel 11 2
	SOVEREIGNS PIRADE (34) (D) (Raymond Tooth) N Henderson 11 2
5410	LAST SPIN (29) (D) (Mrs Bez Long) J Jankers 10 11
20	BATTLESHIP BRUCE (12) (T A Forestian) N Callagram 10: 10
	BEDE OUR TIME (USA) (B W Parren) Graeme Roe 10 10
0	DESMUR (13) (T J Whole) D Gardolo 10 10
	KING OF BASYLON (43) (Richard J Cohen) Lady Hernes 10 10 E Marphy
	HOLLITICAL JEWEL (Sporting Partners) M Usher 10 10
)	NEDWEST (USA) (Paul Green) N Visiber 10 10A P McCoy
05	ZABADI (18) (Lady Hansi D Nacholson 10 10A Magaire
2	MANDY'S BET (USA) (Jen W Smith) N Callagran 10 5
	- 12 declared -
TIME Q.4	Green Haut, 5-2 Secondary Parada, 9-2 Domannel, 10-1 Zabart, 12-1 Ratifachin

Bruce, 14-1 Last Spin, Henwest, 15-1 King Of Bebyton, Handy's Bet, 33-1 Dayman, 50-1 others FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Ocean Hawki's second to Tibetan at Sandown 13 days ago in deep mud may flatter him. It was all too much for Battleship Bruce who was 12th. It was also riding soft when Ocean Hawk made a brave attempt to concede Lisotho a stone at Exetir the time before. Nigel Twiston-Davies has an admissibly tough juvenile— he also went down fighting to Paddy's Return and vesterday's Ludiow winner Danling at Ascot in November — but there's a line there as SOVEREDIANS PARADE best Paddy's Return (Araydock before Christmas on his hunding debut. Sovereigns Parade was getting 12th from Paddy's Return (Ocean Hawki was racing at levels), but could not have been more enpressive. Descapped put in an encouraging first run when fitch brind Our Kris and Danling at Christmham in December and eight days later made all and just held Daily Boy at Haydock. Selection: SOVEREIGNS PARADE.

2.00 RUNNYMEDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 110yds £3,061

Į	1	3/4/3	DAWN FLIGHT (7) (Ms Card Daws) / Jerkes 7 11 10S For
ì	ĮŽ		HAPPY HOSTAGE (38) (A.) ABOSTO J WINDS 5 11 9
ì	3		LUGS BRANNIGAN (48) U B Dowler) M Bradstock 7 11 8
į	4	BF-P112	CROSA'S DELIGHT (13) (BP) (Dispose Partnership) M Pipe 9 11, 7
i	5		JUST BRUCE (8) (A M Heath) Mrs E Heath 7 11 5B Fonton
ì	6		ROW (15) (45 C J Dunn) R Buckler 7 11 3
ł	7		1.0-FLYING MISSILE (1.0) (Bran Cultura) R Ducker & 1.0 5Phillip Haughes (2
١	В		FLY GUARD (15) (Basismore, Stevens & Pelingson) N Babbage 9 10 0
ł	9		CERCLE BOY (48) (Shehey Lut) W Storey 9 10 0R McGrath (3
ı	10	004-00	BOOLAYOBLE (30) (Noel Marphy) O O'Nell 6 10 0
ı			- 10 declared -
ı	LE:	गायन अस्तु	t: 10st. True handicap weighes: Fly Guard 9st 13th, Circle Boy 9st 12th, Boolavogue 9st 5th

BETTING: 13-8 Cross's Delight, 4-1 Carde Boy, 11-2 Row, 8-1 Lugs Brannigan, 13-2 Happy Hostage, 8-1 Dawn Flight, 12-1 Just Broce, 25-1 others FORM GLIDE

eazum rupe ras pransionneo criquisA's Dell-Rinti from a persistent non-finisher into some-tima like the finished arcicle. Having won a pion seller at Exister, only the second time he had completed the course in 13 attempts, Crosa's Delight followed up in a more keenly-concessed seller there on New Year's Day and nearly made it a hat-brok in a nowice's hand-cap at Sandown. The distance isn't any trouble for Crocle Boy, the Cross's Deligit, a front-numer and who led usn't collared in the final 50 yards of a three-mile seller at Edinburgh lisst month. That's only moderate form, but he gets plenty of weight and has come a long way to run. Plow was staying on over the last two behind subsequent winner Hale Dening over 2m5f at Notungham. That wasn't a bad first run of the season. Selections: CROSA'S DELIGHT.

attract money were Neville 2.30 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added

<u>~~</u>	2m Penalty Value £4,765
V1360-2	BARNA SOY (53) (Lynn Wison) N Hendeson 8 12 0M A Fizginald
641F11	TIME WORT WAT (42) (D) (Ou Books Parmeship) R Philips 7 11 9
FOPP.	GAMELING ROYAL (273) (C) (Mis T Prichard) Or P Prighard 13 11 7
	PEACEMAN (643) (D) (Sir Peter Gibbrigs) Mrs D Hame 10 11 4A Magairo
42-4114	RODEO STAR (USA) (42) (D) (J C Brackury) N Tiniter 10 11 0 G McCount
	LASATA (14) (D) (P lamb) P Hobbs 11 10 13A P McCoy
311013	MANN MIDODO (FR) (50) (GET) (Steel Plate & Sections (Ltd) C Brooks 5 10 6
143/1/F	WYLAM (13) (Mrs J S Wootton) J Gifford 9 10 0P Hide
	_ Q risoland _

Minimum weight: 10st. True handkap weight: Wylam 9st 3th. BETTENIX: 9-4 Burnn Boy, 5-2 Time Wort Walt, 4-1 Marc Mood, 11-2 Lasuta, 6-1 Rodeo Star, 12-1 Peaceuran, 16-1 Wylam, 33-1 Gambling Royal

FORM GLIDE

There are pienty in here with claims, not least Time Won't Walt, who confirmed the promise of his earlier defeat of Full O'Prases at Handook with another comfortable win over the same horse at Doncaster. Rodee Star was moving up nicely when he hit the fourth lest and lost, all chance in that Doncaster race and reopposes on Bb better terms. Berma Boy's jumping, which let him down after such a promising start over fences last season and stored a return to hunding, seemed a thing of the past at Worcester on his reappearance. Unfortunately, his one and only mistake, when going strongly in the lead at the final tence, cost him the race against Northern Saddler. The winner has franked the form since and a clear round would give Barna's Boy a great chance, yet one with better prospects than his lighness suggest and who might be the value is LASATA. The exhibit gaiding was having he first run since April when fourth behind Sartonus at Townester a formight ago. Always well there, he led from the severath until coming to the end of his tether between the last two, yet even then he would probably have been second if he hadn't hit the last. He'll come on a lot for the run. Some of the horses to have come from France recarnly have been thrown in at the weights and Mass Mood may be no exception. This youngster spreadeagied his field at Hereford (2m3t) but couldn't manage the extra two furlongs at Windsor and two miles may be his distance. Selection: LASATA.

3.00 ROYAL MAIL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,250 added

L		Sm livyus Penarty value 15,345
1	232 521	GFEAT EASERY (41) (D) (D C Balley) W Storey 6 11 10R McGrath (7)
2	322/411	TAKE THE BUCKSKIN (35) (D) (David F Wilson) T Thomson Jones 9 11 10 McCoart
3	561-00	SABARI RIVER (18) BAIs 9 Taylor) Mrs J Rester 12 11 9
4	35-0032	LANDED GENTRY (USA) (41) (KW Bell & Son Ltd. C Broad 7 11.7
5	140-411	SMITH TOO (65) (D) (Smith Mensfeld Meet Co Ltd) Mrs J Parten 8 11.7
6	1030-P0	NECK THE BEAK (13) (C) (Sir Nicholas Wilson) John R Upson 7 11 6
7	30P341	METAL DISEAU (282) (D) (Frank Nov) P Righers 8 11 1R Greens
8	12//-PP1	COOL CLOWN (10) (D) (Mrs. P B Browner M Pipe 9 11 1 (5ex) D Bridgester
9	30-4FR	BETTER BYTHE CLASS (30) (D) (B Syndrate) N Turston-Daves 7 10 13
ij	425-141	CALLIN GLAS (30) (M Wordster) Noel T Chance 7 10 12
1	353-032	ROYAL PIPER (NZ) (AS) (A M Darlingson) A J Wilson 9 10 10
Ľ	2 R33PP9	SPECIAL ACCOUNT (43) (D) (Tony Fonito) C Barvell 10 10 6
		_ C2 decelerat

- 12 December - 100-30 Callin Glas, 4-1 Take The Scholate, 11-2 Smith Too, 13-2 Great Esseby, 7-1 Land-BETTRYS: 100-30 Callin Glas, 4-1 Take The Scholate State County State State

Callin Glas outstaved Goldenswift at Ludlow (2m5f110v) and there seems little doubt that she'll be equally effective over this longer trip. She's on a nuce weight (plus her regular no-er takes off another 7(b) and the numer-up went on to wan at Sandown, then again Badyea Boy didn't let down the form of TAME THE BUCKSKIM's Notungham wan by going on to finish third to Storm North at Ascot. Take The Buckstern had brounced him over this trup, seeish third to Storm North at Ascot. Take The Buckston had brounced him over this trip, see-ming it our neally well after leading at the fourth last, and the nue-year-old has come negri-into his own since tacking longer distances this season. Great Easeby had been pushed along some way from home before beating Landed Gentry going away over a furiong less at Haydock. The attered weights make it close, but the runner-up has shown his best form when there has been a lot more cut in the ground. Better Bythe Glass is back hunding after an unsuccessful spell over ferces. He should do better, though one who has found reverting to hunding a possitive boon is Smiths Too, a Chettenham and Haydock winner and likely to be thereabouts once more. Selection: TAKE THE BUCKSKIN.

3.30 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £7,000 added

3m Penalty Value £4,811			
1	P156-1U	YORKSHIRE GALE (34) (CD) (BI Noylor) J Galloni 10 11 10	
2		CLEVER SHEPHERD (64) (D) (Mass H L Cope) P Hobbs 11 11 4	
3	66-5233	REPEAT THE DOSE (6) (A T A Wates) T Casey 11 11 0	
4	222-225	TOURSEN PRINCE (13) (D) (Paul Stamp) Miss H Knight 13 11 0	
5	132-223	THE WHIP (69) (The Hon Miss C Yestes) D Gressell 9 10 0	
- 5 declared -			

BETTING: 13-8 Yorkshire Gate. 15-8 Clever Shanherd, 9-2 Tources Prince, 5-1 Recent The Dogs PORTAL GLEDE

FORM GUIDE

Towneen Prince dropped swey over it less; two when fifth behind Smith's Band in a decent handicap at Haydock lest time. The old boy still has a race in him but two and three-quarter miles is his trip. There must also be reservations about Repeat The Dose and The Whip over this detained and this looks a toss-up between Yorkshire Sale and LEVER SHEPHERIO. Yorkshire Gale returned to action with possibly his best run yet, a defeat of Edmbourg and stablemans Run lip The Flag from our of the handicap at Chethanham last morth, he didn't last long when questy far-ded to rescort 8 entenware Cup but will be strongly fancied to nake amends. Clever Shepherd's first run of the season, and his first in 1.1 months, was to go down lighting to Smith's Band at level weighs at Wincanton. Taking that iteratives to go down lighting to Smith's Band at level weighs at Wincanton. Taking that iteratives by he would have bearing Toursen Prince a lot farther at Haydock than he did at Exter 13 months ago, Glenn Tormey takes the rider from Peter Hobbs and his 3th claim, bus the 6th Yorkshire Gale has to concede, may all make the difference. Selection: CLEVER SHEPHERD.

4.00 EXTRA DAYLIGHT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,918

	1-111	CASTLE SWEEP (43) (D) (Lord Yesley) D Nicholson 5 11 8	وينوفن الــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
	1.	HARLEQUEN WALK (247) (D A Johnson) R O'Sulhan 5 10 13	D O'Sullban
1	0/3-	AMAZE (437) (Lady Ketharine Philips) Lady Hernes 7 10 12	E Marphy
	002-U	DECEDE YOURSELF (76) (David F Wilson) Tithornson Jones 6 10 12	G MicCourt
		FINE IDEA (S P Racing) T Case; 7 10 12	
		FROGENARCH (USA) (Mrs Helen Mills) R Philips 6 10 12	مواتندي ليهييه
	55	JUST 14 ACE (34) (Mrs. Joseph Aberrau) J Gifford 5 10 12	P Hide
	10-00	MAUTRE DE MUSIQUE (96) (8F) (Robert Ogden) Andrew Turnell 5 10 12	P Carbany
1	OP3	SOMMARNA STAR (DER& (10) (Mrs Anne Dooks) R Hams 6 10 12	B Powel
0	0	SWINGING SOUTIES (55) OK Higson) G L Moore 5 10 12	A P McCoy
1	630-	TUKANO (CANO (309) (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkos 5 10 12	۔۔۔۔۔ا Csborne
2	11-0	VENDOON (36) (Mel Daves) M. Hesson-Ellis 6 10 12	D Gullagher
3		JUNGLE HIGHWAY (8) (PW Hers) P Hast 7 10 7	
		- 13 declared -	-
_			

BETTWG: 5-6 Castle Sweep, 9-2 Just 'N Ace, 13-2 Swinging Stitles, 12-1 Amaze, Na 14-1 Maibra De Masione. Tulono., Vendoor. 16-1 Sommarka Star, 25-1 Decide Yours

Jeast TV Ace caught the eye at Ascot on his hunding with his fifth behind Strong Promise. He was its from ready yet still looked as if he might get second until sipping on landing over the last. He finished even farther behind third-pisced Strong Promise in a hot race won by Call Equinamie there need time and, while that was a little disappointing, he remains a nice prospect and the 10th he gets should ensure CASTLE SWEEP doesn't have 4 all his own way. That is just what has been happening since dual bumper winner Castle Sweep went hundling and he followed a very easy win at Bangor by bearing Keep it Zipped with his head in his chest at Nottingham. He looks the more trushed article at present and is worth stocking with. Selection: CASTLE SWEEP.

Ew. 17 ran. 6, 7. Innoc. 11. DF: £23.10. cor. 51.60, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £23.10. cor. 54.002. Tno: £3.50. MR: Mayir Magic. 4.20: 1. DRESS DANCE (Sophie Mather) 20.1: 2. Goldingo 14-1; 3. Society Guest 12-1. 13 ran. 4-1 fav Sports Vew (Eth.) 7. 114. (N. Matchell). Total: £35.90; £3.70, SOUTHWELL

RACING RESULTS

LUDLOW

12.40: 1. MASTER TRIBE (W Merstor) 31 co fay; 2. Dream Ride 3-1 co fay; 3. The
Bounder 15-2. 18 ran. 3-1 co fay Blaze of
Oak. 134. 11. (Mrs. J Patman). £4.10; £2.40,
£1.60, £2.00. DF: £5.90. CSF: £12.28.
1.10: 1. DANAINS (J Osborne) 8-13 fay; 2.
Tragic Hearo 6-1; 3. Torian 50-1. 17 ran. 34.
14. (S Sherwood). Totae: £1.60; £1.10,
£1.70, £17.60. DF: £6.70. CSF: £5.21. Tho:
£117.00. NN: Green Chasader.
1.40: 1. PRIDEWOOD PICKER (A Magnat)
5-1 fay; 2. Megical Bid 10-1; 3. Read Popcorn 16-1; 4. Mester Numphy 6-1. 19 ran.
1, 1/2. (R Proce). Totae £4.10; £1.60, £2.50.

corn 16-1; 4. Mester Murphy 6-1. 19 rsn. 1, 1/2. (R Price). Total: £4.10; £1.60, £2.50.

25, 0, 32.20. br. 148. (S.F. 1550.2 fr cast £730.95. Ino: £617.70. NR: Beaufan. 2.10: 1. TURNING TRIX (A Maguret 8-11 for, 2. Visaga 14-1: 3. Don't Tell The Wife 6-1.8 ran. 5, 124. (D Nicholson). Total £1.60, £1.50, £2.80, £1.30. DF: £16.00. CSF: £11.68. Tricsst: £38.14. NR: Powder Boy.

£11.68. Theast £38.14, NR; Powder Boy.
2.40: 1, NEWHALL PRINCE (Gay Lycra)
9.4 tor, 2, Early Drinker 5-2; 5. Colonel Colt
7-1.8 ren. 2, 1. (A Streeter). Totae £2.30;
£1.10, £2.50, £2.30. DF; £3.30. CSF; £7.73.
Theast £28.00.
3.10: 1, HOODWINKER (A Dokbn) 8-1; 2.
Copper Coll 20-1; 3. Old Money 33-1: 4. Now
We Noor 7-1.18 ran. 9-4 to Apachee Plover.
8, 14. (W Jenkel, Totae £6.00; £1.30, £5.50.
£10.70, £2.20. DF; £110.90. CSF; £15.133.
Theast £4.510.53. Thus £220.90.
3.40: 1, SHINNING LIBERT (A Magure) 7-2
k fav; 2. Primbertoy Piscon 7-2 fray, 3. Versyel 9-2: 18 ran. 1, 4. (O Micholson, Temple
Gunng). Totae £4.20; £1.90, £2.00, £2.30.
DF; £10.30. CSF; £16.08. Thus £83.30.
4.10: 1, SOUNDS LIKE FUN (6 F Ryan) 6-7.

4.10; 1. SOUNDS LIKE PUN (G FRyan) 6-2. Kaladross 6-1; 3. Polter's Galo 4-7 17 ran. 6, 7. iMss H Winger). Total E6.90; 0, 51.40, 51.10. DF: £23.10. CSF:

1.40 Northern Grey 2.10 Miss Zanzibar 2.40 Weetman's Weigh, 3.10 Modest Hope, 3.40 Sarsai, 4.10 So Amazing

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5L Fibresand surface: left-hand sharp, oval course.

Recordance is three miles south-east of town and five railes west. MARY CURRENT IN LINES SOUTH-EAST Of LOWER and five rolless west, of Newark at Rolleston, Rolleston Junction railway 50 (10 April 1985) and 1995 and

SIS

RIPHERED FOR FIRST TIME: Manila Boy (2.10). Summer Vilin (2.10), Don't Get Caught (4.10), WINNESS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Modest Hope (2.10) and First Gold : 1.10; was here had Friday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Premier Bance (3.10) & Quincil Martin , 1.10; grave! ITS rules from D Haydr Jones' Efait is a sta-

Jackpot: For son (£9,174.09 to Kestuson to-day, Placepot: £411.00. Quadpot: £62.70. Place & £149.45. Place St £79.38. 1.40 OYSTER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,850 added 7f 00/0000- HENRY WESTON (36) PHOMAS 4 9 0...

3	30G-60	MAN OF MAY (9) N Latrocen 4 9 0
	∞-	MAYENEK (293) 8 McListor, 490
,	:0446	HOREHERN CERT (S) J Serry 4 3 0P Roberts
	-3300	OUR ROBERT (102) J.F.; Gezet 490
•	0-	PUSHKA FAIR (31) T Warson 5 9 0 Deen Micked
	33:30-	SQUARE DEAL (FR) (243) S Bowing 5 9 0 C Teague
,	G-	TABLE DEER (494) # 0 Gcman 490 Emma 0'6om
c	22329	FLIRTY GERTIE (99) R Boss 4 8 9
•	20565-0	50 NATURAL (18) E Aiston 4-8 9
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Hoskin flies in for Garcia

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Barcelona

Howard Hoskin, the Reading forward, yesterday flew out to join the Great Britain squad here after the experienced Russell Garcia withdrew on the eve of their opening Olympic qualifying match against India.

Garcia, who won a gold medal as part of Britain's triumphant 1988 Olympic side, has contracted a severe bout of gastroenteritis.

The loss of their most experienced player is a severe blow to Britain, who set out on the long road to Atlanta with seven matches in 10 days at the qualifying tournament. They face a tough start when, in their opening match, they meet an Indian team who have just beaten the world champions, Pakistan.

"India won't be easy, but we know we can beat them," the British manager, David Whittle, said. Even defeat by India would not be a disaster, as Britain are firm favourites to qualify along with the Indians and Holland, who are officially ranked second in the world.

Five of the eight competing nations will earn tickets to Atlanta to join the seven countries who have qualified already. Also competing in Barcelona are Spain, Belgium, Malaysia, Belarus and Canada – all ranked below Britain.

TAIRED DELOW EXTERNIAL
ENGLAND SQUAD (Olympic qualifying tourmanient, Barcelonag): S Mascor (Reading), D
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STMENTIES Todays: England v India, 21, Jane
STMENTIES Todays: England v India, 21, Jane SCHEDULE: Today; England v India. 21. Jan: England v Canada. 22. Jan: England v Belans. 24. Jan: England v Spain, 25. Jan: England v Netherlands. 27. Jan: England v Malaysa. 28.

Warne turns the tide for **Australia**

Cricket

Shane Warne transformed vesterday's opening match of the best-of-three World Series final as Australia beat Sri Lanka by 18 runs.

The tourists appeared to be cruising to victory at the Mel-bourne Cricket Ground before Warne took two kev wickels. Chasing Australia's moderate total of 201 for 7. Sri Lanka lost six middle-order wickets for 25 runs to lose their way, being dismissed for 183 in 48.1 overs. Yorkshire's Michael Bevan

and Ricky Ponting rescued Australia with determined half-centuries after a top-order collapse left them on 39 for 4. Ian Healy completed the recovery with an undefeated 50 off 51 balls. When Warne came on to

bowl Sri Lanka, having reached 78 for 2 after 17 overs, lost the vital wickets of vice-captain Aravinda de Silva for 34 and Hashan Tillakaratne for one. Craig McDermott then lured Asanka Gurusinha into a rash

shot when on 47, and Sri Lanka's captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, added 33 for the final wicket with Ravindra Pushpakumara before being bowled by Mc-Grath with 11 balls remaining. WORLD SERIES Float (First game of three; Mel-bourne): Australia (20), for 7 (50 overs; RT Ponting 51, M (8 Bevan 59, 1 A Healy 50no): So Lanka 183 (48.1 overs). Australia won by LB ruce.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Connah's Quay

Nomads (7.30). Nomads (7.30). BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Di-vision: Shebourne v Athlone (7.45). Rugby League STONES CENTENARY CHANG Engles v Vigan (7.30). Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES Askeans v Cambridge Universi CLUB MATCHES Ackeans v Cambridge University (7.30); Barri v Moseley (7.15); Bristol v Exerter (7.30); Clifton v Stroud (7.30), Lencester v Bed-food (7.15); Metropoiatan Polica v Ester (7.45); Nacrisampton v Risages (7.30); Rosslyn Park v Loncon Insh (7.30); Wonester v Wolverhampton (7.30); Biggar v Apr (7.0); Edinburgh Wanderes v Gargas High-relivaside (7.0); Carre v Cold (7.0); Grasgiva Southern v Dundee HSFP (7.0); Pelsa v Borrughrau (7.0); Edinburgh Wanderes v Borrugham v Bernagham v Grangemonta (7.0); Wirst of Southing County v Grangemonta (7.0); Wirst of Southing (7.0); Wi ling County v Grangemo Land v Kalicaldy (7.0).

Other sports DTHER or BASHETBALL Buthweser League.

BASHETBALL Buthweser League.

BOOMNG Vacant Brush super teatherweight tale

BOOMNG Vacant Brush super teatherweight tale

BOOMNG Vacant Brush super (Wood Green)

Cardinelli: P J Gallagner (Wood Green)

> TODAY'S NUMBER

12,000

The record number of tickets snapped up in the first week of sale for the World Indoor Bowls Championship at Preston Guild Hall, which runs from 12-25 February. The last three days are already a sell-טענ

sport

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England tackle France without Brian Moore tomorrow. Jim White meets the man they called pit-bull

The solicitor who thrived in the trenches

or a decade it was as ter-rifying a sight as any in in-ternational sport: Brian Moore, England's most capped hooker, exploding from the players' tunnel on to the pitch at the start of a Five Nations' Championship game.

Extremities coated in vaseline and swathed in masking tape, he snarled out to do the business for his country, issuing an overt physical statement which said: This Englishman is dangerous". What routines, you might wonder, did Brian Moore go through to arrive at such a state of wired motivation? Decorating the dressing room with portraits of Churchill, Wellington and Richard the Lion Heart? Spending a day in a manage-ment seminar with Will Carling? "Actually," he says, sitting in

his solicitor's suit in his smart city office, not a scrap of vase-line in sight, "I didn't have to work at getting myself moti-vated. Really it was a case of scaling it down and trying to

keep control."
Which makes you wonder: what might have happened if Brian Moore had given vent to his true feelings? This year French hearts will be significantly lifted by the absence of the crazed Moore. His services no longer required by Jack Rowell, the man who more than any epitomised the uncompromising spirit on which Gallic ambitions so often foundered will be watching instead from the press box.

des Princes, it will be difficult," he says. "I'll know what the morning's been like, the coach journey, the descent into the changing rooms, the feeling of expectation as you set out towards the field, then the moment you break up into the stadium. That moment, it's the most thrilling thing."

And for him there was more to it than simply the heady realisation that 60,000 pairs of eyes were focused in his direction. Brian Moore played all his international rugby as if it were the continuation of a millennium of internecine rivalry, of which the battle against the

French was the big one.
"It is a very seductive fixture," he says. "Southern Hemisphere teams may be technically more



The hooker who spread fear throughout rugby and the thinker, committed to his profession

to any Five Nations match, however hard they try to denigrate it as a competition, is 1,000 years of history. England-France is very special; it isn't too fanciful to say, if you scratch be-low the surface, there's an ancient rivalry of such intensity it is bound to be an extra factor." Neither would it be too fan-

ciful to suggest that Moore's 14 colleagues did not similarly regard the game as a chance to settle scores left unresolved from the Battle of Agincourt. But then few of them have analysed quite as thoroughly as he has the connotations of pulling on the lily-white jersey.

The thing about playing for

England is that every opponent you face brings all sorts of bagchallenging opponents. but gage with them about wanting what they can't offer compared to beat you. Take Scotland in

1990" - he says the words through gritted, if patchwork, teeth, remembering his lowest sporting moment, losing that Grand Slam encounter at Murravfield - "it was the height of the poll tax, we were cast as representatives of a system which the Scots felt had been imposed upon them. It definitely helped their motivation. When you've had to face overt nationalism, it draws a sense of your own identity further forward, simply to counter it." And the sense of his own identity Moore arrived at was passionately English, an attitude which is received with much greater suspicion than its Welsh, Irish or Scots equivalent.

Hence he was cast as pit-bull,

the brainless yob. An image

which was reinforced by a ten-

dency to speak out of turn.

et," he says. "I always felt a sense of injustice, I wasn't prepared to let it go and if it caused annoyance, c'est la vie." Did he ever regret anything he

Not even his remarks about the Scots after last year's confrontation, when he accused them of spoiling the game, thus provoking the ire of everyone who has ever worn a kilt?

"Not at all. And I'll tell you try," he says. "Because I was right. If you ask most rugby-play-ing Scots candidly, they will ad-mit I was right. But the flak I took for saying it was incredible. John Beattie, the ex-Scotland flanker, wrote the most personal, vitriolic article about me after that I have ever seen about any sportsman.

"I wasn't good at keeping qui- It wasn't libellous, because sheer abuse is not libel. And this year he rang up asking for an inter-view. It beggared belief. I sent him a letter saying if he thinks he can write articles like that and then get people to co-operate later, then he's insane."

So Moore's not a man to forget an insult in a hurry, then. "You use that. Like that Clive Rowlands quote," he says, re-ferring to the former Welsh coach's remarks when Wales were knocked out of the first World Cup about how they'll just go back to the important business of beating England every year. "That really riled. And I think it helped us as a team, on our way up, to have a few scores to settle." But didn't his opponents ever have a score to settle with him? "If you're in the front

row," he says, "then you're a target. If you're on the floor, they'll tread on you whoever you are. But I guess it would have brought a bit more satisfaction to most people when they realised it was me down there they'd just done."

Not that Brian Moore has ever really objected to his image. He is cunning enough to use it to his advantage, particularly in his professional life.

"People always assumed I didn't do the work," he says. "They thought I was just on the letterhead, there to get senior partner match tickets. And legal opponents often under-estimate me, thinking I haven't got the brain power. Ironically, in professional life I'm quite guarded. I couldn't be a loose cannon here, it's just too important. I think that was the great thing

about my job, because it is so demanding, if you had mental discipline to compartmentalise properly, it was a very good dis-traction from rugby. The week before we played the All Blacks at Twickenham in 1993, I was working on a multi-million pound professional negligence claim that just had to be finished before the weekend and I sent my last fax at 12.30 the Friday night, went to bed knackered

there. Some people had two or three days chewing with nerves." Which, coming from one of the most vociferous proponents of professionalism in rugby, sounds like a good argument for

got up and the game was just

keeping a day job.
"In the days when I played. it was the right thing to do." he

teams who play fully profes-sionally are able to devote so much more time to fitness and organisation, that intellectual discipline is neither here nor there. I used to train two hours a day, but it was at the end of a long working day, the cumulative benefits of training were not as great as if I approached the task fresh. You talk to the Wigan rugby league boys, compared to what they did, our regime was a joke. They have quality train-ing, and as importantly, quality resting. If you want to compete, we have to give our players that. Typically the RFU are going about it in a penny-pinching way, which means a lot of our players will be financially tempted to keep on their jobs, thus negating the whole point."

The big question for a man as bright and committed to his profession as Brian Moore is why did he spend 17 years of his life weekly putting his head into the bad place?

"Maybe it's a release for excess testosterone," he says. "For that period in my life I needed a physical outlet. It was driven from within me. Plus in very few walks of life do you get to a situation where you win or lose." would never shirk a challenge retire so soon after being dropped by England? Particularly as Jack Rowell had made it clear he could fight his way

back into the scrum? They said that but, candidly, it seemed apparent it was over for me," he says. "It does sound churlish, because I've had a lot of pleasure out of club rugby, but when the big prize of England wasn't there it just didn't interest me anymore. I was, however, absolutely petrified of retiring. I was desperately worried what would replace it in my life. But in the end it came down to this. Thursday night training is sacrosanct for a rugby player, never to be missed. And I found I could only get tickets to go and see the Nutcracker at the Festival Hall on a Thursday. And I said to myself: What would you rather be doing, honestly?' And I thought sod it, and went. And that was it. I knew, if I felt that, it was the time to get out. Christ, it makes me sound like a candidate for Pseud's Corner." Brian Moore in Pseud's Corner? That would be a turn-up.

Questions of Sport



£40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In last Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000. You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting

knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. In tomorrow's Independent we will give you a new Questions of Sport scratch card. Like your last card, it contains eight games so that you can play daily

through to Friday 26 January.

As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000 waiting to be won.

HOW TO PLAY Today we are playing the section of the card dated Friday 19 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers

coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Twenty-two, either A,B or C in the Q22 column then repeat for Q23 and Q24. THE OUESTIONS

Q22 Who topped the England

batting averages in the recent

Test series against South Africa?

A: Mike Atherton B: Jack Russell 023 Which British Formula One driver has opted to join the Indy-car circuit for the 1996 season?

A: Damon Hill

B: Don Shula

C: Vince Lombard:

B: Martin Brundle

C: Mark Blundeli Q24 Who retired this month after 25 years as head coach of the Miami Dolphins?

IMPORTANT

If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk.

HOW TO CLAIM
If you have revealed three identical
cash amounts of £5 or under, DO
NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm

Participating newsagents: WH Smith. John Menzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Supercigs, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop. IF you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley,

RULES AS PREVIOUSLY

SOME OF OUR WINNERS SO FAR:

Derim Cassim from Pwllheli, Wales - £250 Thomas Finch from Platt Bridge, Wigan - £100 Maureen Pearson from Horsforth, Leeds - £100 Roger Bryant Clayton West, Huddersfield - £100 Raymond Thomas from Wirral, Merseyside - £100 Peter Perryman from Otley, West Yorks - £50 Lyn Gray

from Gargrave, Nr. Skipton - £25 Michael Wright from Wrexham - £25 Martina Shuttleworth from Leigh, Lancashire - £10

> **QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON**

To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

TELEPHONE ... To the Newsagent: Please check

Friday 19 January 1996

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

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the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

Ireland primed and eager to justify the optimism

of optimism in the air? A new coach, a new attitude, and a couple of preparatory wins have prompted a rash of bets on the Five Nations' Championship and a belief that Twickenham on St Patrick's weekend will constitute a Triple Crown decider.

This is worrying. This is Ireland. We have been here before as well, most noticeably last season with premature talk of a legendary front-row in the making. Under-prepared, Ireland under-achieved, and the only mantle they ended up playing for was the wooden spoon in the Cardiff Arms Park denouement to an-

other anti-climactic campaign. However, this time things might just be different, and Ireland might be worth taking seriously if only because they seem to be taking themselves seriously. For starters, it is arguable that no other team needed the onset of the professional more.

With their conservative Union bosses dragged along, kicking and screaming, into the new era, suddenly Irish rugby began catching up with its counterparts and remonerating its international players. The agreement reached last week enables each of the 30 squad members to earn from £7,500 up to £30,000.

Now both the practice, as well as the theories, are professional which is no less than Ireland's first professional, and overseas coach, demands. Murray Kidd, the 42-year-old from Auckland who has coached at club level in his native country, France and Ireland, was a surprise choice last October to succeed Gerry Murphy after Bob Dwyer and John Connolly had rejected the IRFU's covetous advances. A one-season contract was less

than a wringing endorsement. In his one stint at provincial level last season, Kidd lasted less than a year at unfashionable King Country due, in part, to the players' discontentment with his stringent training regime. On the other side of the coin, he was fitter than most of them.

Though known as a tough taskmaster, the Irish players have responded to Kidd's more intense training sessions. "I do things that the players weren't used to. Our training sessions are Murray Kidd: Concentrating on fitness

s that the discernible sound. A new coach with a professional approach has a nation expecting victory against Scotland tomorrow. David Hughes reports

> reasonably short, generally not more than an hour and a half, but they know they've been out there for an hour and a half." One of Kidd's biggest achievements was to secure a hastily arranged Five Nations' New Year warm-up in Atlanta.

Leinster had played Cardiff the day before yet, upon arrival, the squad went through a fierce two-hour session. The players were told that to opt out would. in Kidd's own words, be to winp out

The benefits of the rigorous regime were almost immediate in the hard-earned win over the United States. "It instilled a kind of confidence," according to Neil Francis, outstanding in Leinster's 10-match winning se-

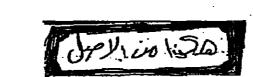
quence this season and widely acclaimed as man of the match in that sodden triumph over the United States. "If it was the team that was playing last year, it might have been different."

With the equally well-re-spected John Mitchell installed as the forwards coach (dropped sses result in punitive sprinting drills) the fitness of the team shone through against a gargantuan American pack (average weight - over 17 stone). Likewise, Ireland had been noticeably fitter and more focused in disposing of Fiji last November, and were clearly

developing a pattern of play based on ball retention rather than the age-old Irish ploy of bootin', bitin' and bollockin'.

Photograph: Inpho

Bizarrely, given only Terry Kingston of this team has sampled victory over the Scots, a mamay be justified in their eternal



Even in the scarcely playable conditions in Atlanta, Eric Elwood hardly kicked a ball at outside-half before the sodden surface and ball dictated a change of tack. For once declining to adopt the perennial underdog's tag so beloved of the Irish, Kidd admits his team have "a better than even chance in our home games" against Scotland and Wales, but still desires victory with at least a degree of style. I think those are games we've got to go out and attack. I don't want to not lose them,

I want to go out and win them." The selection of the slickpassing Sale scrum-half Chris Saverimutto this season was a clear statement of intent. The recall of Eric Elwood for the States' game and his retention ahead of Paul Burke for the forthcoming joust with Scotland may seem a contradiction, but Kidd also places great store in sound tacking. With one eye on the straight-running Ian Jardine and Scott Hastings, Elwood

Bearing in mind Doddie Weir's eclipse of Francis four years ago, similarly there was a horses-for-courses thinking behind Peter Clohessy's recall at the expense of the unlucky Paul Wallace. Pat Whelan, the team manager, makes no bones about it. "Clohessy's abrasiveness was an important consideration, because we believe this is something Scotland will recognise." With Clohessy adding more

protection to Francis, Ireland's line-out has been further strengthened by the recall of the 21-year-old lock Jeremy Davidson to No 6. This leaves David Corkery as the shortest of the pack's back five at 6ft 4in. Better organised, fitter, more

focused, now all Ireland need is the confidence of a first win over Scotland since 1988. With a month's gap to come before the daunting trip to Parc des Princes, where Ireland have never won, the Scottish game is very much the pivotal one of the season.

tion expects. This is indeed dangerous, but for once the Irish

Dancing Bear cubs take to the ice



KEITH ELLIOTT at large

Blood splattered across the ice. Simon Smith, his tongue split wide open, was hauled off to hospital. It was the sort of injury every parent dreads. His father, Brian, passed a sleepless night at his son's bedside, wondering how badly his sev-en-year-old would be scarred.

A simple indictment, you may feel, of a parent's foolishness at allowing children still at infant school to play one of the world's most violent games

– and you would be hopelessly wrong. Simon's injury was the result of a fall while learning to ice-skate. Far from instilling a paranoia about frozen water, the incident led, in a convoluted way, to him becoming one of Britain's best young ice hockey players.

To the uninitiated, ice hockey is 12 Michelin men playing GBH, bushido on ice. But if that's so, how come thousands of parents are happy to let their offspring (some as young as three) play the game? Ice hockey for teenies is

flourishing. The sport is growing at 15 per cent a year, and most of those newcomers are youngsters. David Pickles, general secretary of the British Ice Hockey Association, says, "About three-quarters of the players are now under 16. This is a massive growth area."

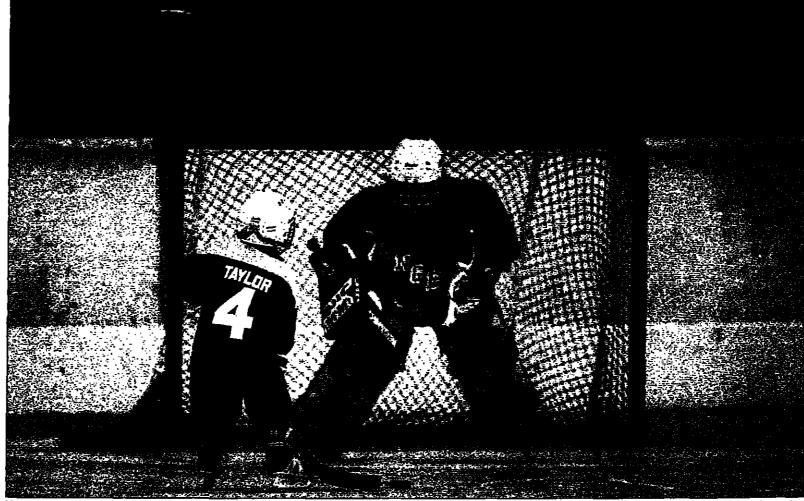
The Medway Bears typify this growth. They are not particularly famous or successful, nor do they have a lucrative sponsorship deal. The Gilling- who look twice his size. "He is ham ice-rink owes its design to the Russian brutalist school, and it is inconveniently positioned on a business park out- to play this game, but you need side town. But youngsters are flocking to join in. At Monday's

practice session for the Under-12s, more than 40 turned up, with the youngest aged just four. Brian Smith is the Bears' manager and owner. "This is an excellent game for young-sters," he said. "I think it is the speed that attracts them, plus the fact that they can get ag-gressive and it is allowed to a degree. But they soon learn there is always someone big-ger and better than yourself."

Ice hockey may look like legalised mayhem, but discipline is a word that Smith uses constantly. "I have boys on the team who would be thugs and in constant trouble with the police if it wasn't for ice hockey. But it isn't an excuse for them to have a fight. That would be letting down the team." Any youngsters caught smoking are dropped from his sides, and when asked what benefits he thinks his sons have gained from ice hockey, he replies: "Self-discipline, character and being part of a team."

Simon, his tongue fully mended, is now 16 and has been net-minder for the Great Britain Under-16 squad for the past two years. Andrew, 11, learnt to skate when he was three and played in an under-12 competition aged just four. He has played for England Under-12s and is a regular member of the Bears Under-16 side. Despite his slight stature - he is only a few inches above 4ft - he fearlessly harries rivals a superb skater and has such vision," Smith says proudly. "You don't have to be a giant

to skate well." To this end, the Bears' cubs



Youth opportunity: Four-year-old Jack Taylor practises at the Gillingham Ice Rink, home of the Medway Bears

get help from Tim Chilcott, a same meat, with a different makes the players look power-

pro skaling coach whose sevenyear-old son Luke plays ice hockey, too. Figure skating carries unfortunate images of Come Dancing costumes and scented rose-water aftershave. But it proves invaluable for injecting basic skills like stopping and turning. Chilcott says: "I teach the youngsters techniques. Once they have these right, they can concentrate on the game rather than thinking

Just watch ice hockey live, and it's easy to see why even under-16 teams attract a following of admiring girls. You quickly ig-nore the fact that at junior level, everything is done on a budget, and basic things like players' names on their backs have been made by mums rather than a pro outfitter (one lad's name, spelt out in capitals, looked more like NODDY than about how to stop. It's the MOODY). That heavy padding

ful enough to fell Rocky with a one-finger shove. When they take off helmets and carapaces, it's a shock to see normal, unremarkable teenagers emerge

from the chrysalis. On the ice,

it's a different story. Even at kiddie level, the game is very, very fast. With the puck whizzing at up to 100mph like a fiercely flipped ball on an ice pintable, and the players travelling at 20mph or more. It makes even the most frantic kick-and-run

football team look like geriatrics. It's better value, too.

But what about that violent reputation? Well, at under-12 level, body-checking is not allowed at all, and is instantly penalised. "People think it is all rough and tough. It's a physical game, but it's more a game of skill and speed," Smith says.
"Twe been involved for six years, and none of my kids has had a serious injury.

Big rewards could be just round the corner for today's best \$25.5m (£16.75m).

Photograph: Peter Jay

young players. Sky now screens the sport twice a week, the much-vaunted Superleague looks like being up and running next year, and ice rinks love the

sport for the income it generates. With some games attracting 3,000 spectators at £5 or more a time, plus spin-offs, you don't even have to be an imported star to earn money as a player though it may be some while before British players achieve contracts like Wayne Gretsky's

McRae is poised for Saints role

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens expect to know today when they will be able to wel-come their new coach to succeed Eric Hughes, who was sacked on Wednesday. The Canberra Raiders' as-

sistant coach, Shaun McRae, is favourite for the job after impressing Saints at specialist sessions he laid on for them during the World Cup. He could start

his new job this weekend.
"We have some business to sort out." Saints' chief executive, David Howes, said. The decision to dispense with Hughes's services after two years was made before Sannday's Regal Trophy final defeat by Wigan, he added. Hughes is considering suing for wrongful dismissal and the initial reaction of a number of Saints' players was one of dismay. "The decision was based on league performances," Howes said.

Like Wigan almost a decade ago, Saints seem to have decided that they have gone as far as they can under a British coach. Phil Larder, the one British coach who could be regarded as a contender, is being strongly linked with Warrington, who played their last match under the caretaker regime of Clive Griffiths at Oldham on Wednesday. Larder, the England and Keighley coach, has denied any approach from the club.

Saints will be without Scott Gibbs in the match at Halifax on Sunday that will decide third place in the Stones Centenary Championship. Gibbs, sent off in the Regal final, has been suspended for two matches. Sheffield Eagles can establish

remarkable sequence of defeating all the other sides in the division, one after the other, if they beat Wigan at the Don Valley Stadium tonight. Sky Super League fixtures

Platt to undergo more surgery 'Rebel' clubs' cause for relief

Football

David Platt yesterday had his second knee operation in five months - and admitted that he had never been fully fit for Ar-

midfielder needed surgery to retwo places after playing just four Premiership games following his £4.75m move from Sampdoria. He missed nine games while recovering but yesterday had to

undergo an operation on the same knee which revealed a piece of floating cartilage.

Platt, who expects to be out for "a few weeks", said: "The unfortunate truth is that I have not been 100 per cent fit even once this season.

He has played 15 first-team games since the first operation. pair a left knee cartilage torn in including Wednesday's 1-0 FA Cup replay defeat at Sheffield United, which has prompted manager Bruce Rioch to notify the Arsenal board of three players he wants to sign.

Ilie Dumitrescu yesterday City manager, met Nigel completed a £1.5m move across Clough last night in an attempt London to West Ham. The Romanian international, who cost Spurs £2.8m from Steaua Bucharest in August 1994, must have to take a pay cut, but he now wait for a new work permit which could take two weeks.

£500,000-rated goalkeeper Tony Coton from Maine Road to Old Trafford. Manchester United cover for Peter Schmeichel.

Liverpool forward to step down to the First Division. "Nigel will won't need to play in the Pontins League again," Fry said. Another cross-city move to- Ferenc Puskas has been

day is expected to be that of the named "Goalscorer of the Century" by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics. "I guess I was always want the 34-year-old Coton as nearest the goal," said Puskas, 68, who scored 780 goals in 823 Barry Fry, the Birmingham first-class matches.

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

The long-running saga of the "rebel" Welsh clubs may not yet be over - but friendly relations between the clubs concerned and the Football Association of

lish non-League pyramid. A our will." settlement regarding costs has Colwyn also been reached.

David Hando, the Newport chairman, and his Colwyn Bay counterpart met FAW officials last week to discuss the way forward, now that both clubs are Wales have been restored at last. members of the FAW once ed in 1992. After two years spent and Wrexham] made the switch The FAW has withdrawn its again. "We have re-established in exile they returned home in - but that is unlikely," Hando appeal against last year's High good relations," Hando said yes- 1994, but the long-term future said. "However, things might Court decision that Newport terday. "The FAW now under- of both clubs is not yet assured. change if Cardiff were relegat-AFC, of the Beazer Homes stands that, if we are to join the

Colwyn Bay and Newport were obliged to leave both the FAW and their own grounds when they, and other clubs, chose to stay in their English leagues rather than join the

may continue to play in the Eng- coerced into anything against governing body, that both Colwyn Bay and Newport should be playing in the Welsh football pyramid by 1997. Given the High Court judgment contrary to the Fifa ruling, both clubs are content to bide their time. "We might be convinced if the three League of Wales when it start- League clubs [Cardiff, Swansea

This weekend TODAY

TODAY

CLEFLING: Macelian Serdish Championships:
Men's distinct playdowns: Americaes: sessions:
today 3pm, 8pm, Tomorow: 10am, 3pm, 8pm,
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FOOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership, End-sleigh League and Bell's Scottish League. RUGEY UNION: Five Nations' Championship: France v England (2.0) (at Parc des Princes); treland v Scotland (3.0) (at Lensdowne Road), Swalec Cup fifth round.

Rozali, Swalec Cup fifth round.

RACING (Notional Hunt unless statust):

LINGFELD (AW Firt): LINGFELD (AW Fist):
All enclosures £9, (1.25), Catherloic Cub £11:

Tattersals £7; Course £2.50 (under £6 free
mto all enclosures). (12.45). Haydocic

Coursy Stand £15; Totressals £9; Newton

Stand £4 (QAPs nail-price in Tattersals and

Newton Stand). (12.30), Mesuptone Cub £15.

Jumors £16 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand

£10; Silver Ring £5. (1.10).

BORDINGE WBO bardsmeelght championship:

£10; Salver Ring £5. (1.10).

BÖDRÜZ WBO barrammelgit championship:
Daniel Jimmez (P Rico, holder) v Drew
Docherty (Glasgow) (Mansfield). Docherty
ergers the ring for the first time since the death
of James Murray, the Glasgow bower he
knocked out in the 12th round to retain his
Ermsh barramweight championship last October. Jimmez makes his first defence of this
championship, Tickes: £20, £40, frigsde £60.
The promotion starts at 7.30pm, Mansfield
Jasure Cardre, Oresterfield Road South, Mansfield, Nocorghamshire. (Tel: 01623 646082).
CYCLING; Jack. Fletcher Memonal Super The promotion starts of 1 Josephi, and South, Marsfeld, Notarighamshire. (Tel: 01623 646082).

CYCLING: Jack Flercher Memonal Super League (Manchester). Manchester, London, Edmburgh, Caroff and Birmspham compete, starting at Torn, Admission: 14 abulis, 12 chloren/concession. £10 family ticket. National Cycling Centre, Manchester Vedodrime, Stuart Street, is located off Ashion Old Road, between Menchester and Ashion-Inder-lyne, near Doylsden and reached from A662 via Corbett Street. (Tel: 0161. 223. 2244).

CYCLO-CROSS: Notis and Derby League (Idansfeld). The juvenile race at 1pm opers the 13th yound of the league. Under-12s start at 1.45pm, followed by the main race at 2.15pm. Clipstone Forest is few miles asst of Harsfeld, Notinghamshire, off B6030. Oxonen CC (Great Hassely). Farm wacks and a caused quary from the course. First race 10.45, main race noon. Great Hassely is eight miles east of Oxford, close to junction seven of M40. off A329 Thame to Webingford road. Note that there is no east from M40 for south-east bound traffic: use junction eight, the Whestely ent and follow minor made via Great Miston.

SNOONER: Academy Fost Lift Withmen's Classe Determorough), The first World Lades Billands and Snooker Association's ranking tournament of the year has 34 entires, miching fournament of the year has 35 entires, producing fournament of the year has 34 entir

SUNDAY POOTBALL: FA Carling Premiership: Aston Vita v Tonenham (4.0). Endsleigh League First Davison: Lecester v Sunderland (3.0). RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Centenary Champ-RUCEY UNION: CIS Insurance County Champ-

PICK OF THE DAY

This weekend / Motor sport International Exhibition Brentwood .

The international short circuit and rallycross show at the Brentwood Exhibition Centre this weekend promises to be a colourful affair. Seventy cars and 50 trade stands will represent every aspect of circuit racing from autograss to long track oval racing. Modified road cars such as Ford Escorts and Mondeos to single-seat racing cars will be on show. Designs from the new Euro 2000 rallycross formula, which comes into force next year, entomishine v Outomishine (2.0) (at Hitchin).

Herdordshire v Oxfordshire (2.0) (at Hirchin). Under-21 County Champonrship: South-West Final: Glouosestershire v Berlishne (2.30) (at Cinderford). Club matches: Broughton Park v Newton le Willows (2.30); Fidue v Orreit (2.15); Iwerpool St Heiens v Ashton under Lyne (2.30): Waterfoo v Manchester (2.15). HOCKEY: Scottish Women's Indoor Inter-District Tournament (Edinburgh), East v West opens the round-robin competition at 10am. Last match is at 4.45pm. Meadowbank Sports Centre, Lower London Road, Edinburgh (16): 0131 661 5361).

peris the fruith-fount compensate at Johns Last match is at 4.45pm. Meadowbank Sports Certine, Lower London Road, Edinburgh (Tel. 01.31 661 5351).

ATHLETICS: Scottish Championships (Glasgow). Kehm Hall Intermational Sports Arena is west of Glasgow Cay Centre, on Argle Street. Nearest underground station: Particle, (Tel: 01.41 357 2625).

CYCLO-CROSS: South-East London and Kent Championship (Chartton), 11.5mm. Ipm. Mayor Wilson Park is a half-mile from Charton Villago on the Woolmeh mat, London SET, close to A2. Leloastershire League (Barstall). 10.45em. 11.15em. Longslade School and Community College, Warbp Lane, Bustall, Leoastershire, Midland League (Maton Keynes). Part area in bound 11 os at 11.30mm, with the main event at 1pm. National Boad, Milton Keynes, Buckengharether, entrance is wa main gaze from V4 Wasting Street, Leave A5 at A221 stoy road to Buckengharether, entrance is wa main gaze from V4 Wasting Street, Leave A5 at A221 stoy road to Buckengharether, entrance is wa main gaze from V4 Wasting Street, Leave A5 at A221 stoy road to Buckengharether, entrance is at noon. Throughly Whods is fine miles west of Newcastile-upon-Tyne, Tyne and West, of A69 Hechard mod. Rissa Challenge (Stockport), 11.30mm and 2pm. Woodbank, Park, Turncoft Lane, Stockport, Cheshere, is reached from junction 13, M63, or junction one, M65, turning south mon A226 St. Mary's Way, left mit Hell Street and left and limitorial Lane, Dussley RC (Stroud), 12.30pm, 1.30pm. Stratford Park, Stroud, Gloucestershare, 6-1; male north of town certies and A46. Ronodda Valley C (Bleanmondda), 10.45mm, 11.30mm, 2pm. Royal Vactura Country Park, Neziey, Hampstore, is free males south-asst of junction segit of M27.

MOTOR RACINES: Show Time Special (Windelpon), Stock Rocks and manuson feature in the short-track acce meeting, which status Directors School, Track Frenkey, Darkington v Durriched (Sagow (Baston, Pouge, 1275); Irrich School, Track Frenkey, Darkington v Durriched (Sagow (Baston, March, 215); Irrich Park Wasting Darkether, 150mm, 215.

Next week

Next week

FA Carling Preparatile West Ham : Menchesar Util (8-0). Translay: FA Cap that
round replay Orleam v Barnsty (7-45). An

go Ratino Cap semi-druck process v Par Vac

(7-45). Endelnigh Insurance League Secand Division: Bacycoo / Wycartor, Had v

Brighton, Romantan v Branched, Westam:

JUST THE TICKET: What's on where for the sporting spectator will be exhibited and there will be

plenty of opportunities to get close to the cars and talk to the world and European champion drivers. Ian McKeller, the world hot rod champion from Essex, will be on hand and he will be joined by Rob Speak, the world Formula Two champion from Manchester, and Steve Sworder, the world "super stox" champion based in the Midlands. Demonstrations will include racing with scaled-down models of the cars on show.

How to get there: Brestwood Enhancen Cen-tre, Dodingsuss Road, Brestwood, Essex, is close to junction 28 of \$425. (lef. 01277-215151). The show is open from 10am un-th 5.30pm immerse and Sunday. Admission: 66 adults, £3 children(AAPs.

Ef Sahdis, £3 children/DAPs.
Brisco Cry. Third Division: Marsheld v Cambridge Uni (7.45); Plymouth v Scurchorpe (7.45); Scarboragh v Rochale, GM Varoball Conference (Edic v Hednesberg (7.45); Spalding Cop quarter-finals: Dover v Brunsgrae (7.45); Memering v Slough (7.45); Southput v Gmishead v (4.45); Southput v Gmishead (7.45); Balff Southput v Gmishead v Alexberg Falch v Moneyer (7.45); Balff Southput v Gmishead v Alexberg; Rach Rowes v Partick, First Division: Antire v Memory Duridee; St. Johnstone v Czydenank, Second Division: Forder v Moneyer, Queen of the South v Berneck; Stenthousern; v East, File. Third Division: Brechen v Allow, Caledonian Truste v Ross Courty, Wednesday; International Division: Str. Divisions: V. Lagamana, Security v. Bennack; Strenthusernum v. East. Fife. Third Division: Beacher v. Alloy, Caledouan Thesis v. Ross. County. Wednesday; International friendly: Ealy v. Wales: (7.15). (at Term). Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final replay: Brimington v. Norschi (7.45). Endaleigh Insurance League Flort Division: Sunderland v. Gernsbylf. Adv. Scottlish Langue Flort Division: Sunderland v. Gernsbylf. Adv. Scottlish Langue Flort Division: Sunderland v. New Sunth Wales (7.30). Transday: Helineland Weisth Langue First Division: Swansea v. Portyprid (7.0). Wild Midweek Competition (7.0): Pool & Earna v. Portyprid (7.0). Wild Midweek Competition (7.0): Pool & Earna v. Portyprid (7.0). Wild Midweek Competition (7.0): Pool & Earna v. Portyprid (7.0). Pool & Cartell Institute v. Geenhoy, Usranann v. South Wales Polon. Pool Dr. Bramswer v. Co. Wales (7.0). Pool & Cartell Institute v. Geenhoy, Usranann v. South Wales (7.0). Pool & Earna v. Portyprid (7.0). Pool & Earna v. Pool

NEXT WEEKEND MCAT Without Programmer FA Cup four round, Endough League Sectors and Time Divisions, Terrent's Section Cup that round and Bell's Section League Section and This Divisions, Supage FA Cup four round Sheffed Lan-

ed v Aston Vita (3.0).

RUGBY LEASURE Saturday: Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth round: Castleford v St Heiers (3.05).

Sunday: Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth round: RUGBY LEASURE Saturday: Tour March: Pontyprodd v New South Wates (2.30). CIS Insurance Couray Championalp Southern semi-final Middlesex v Surrey (2.30) (at Old Merchants Taylor's). Pillangton Cup fifth round: Courage Cubes Championship National League Two: Moseley v Northampton (3.0). Tennent's Scottish Championship Regional League. RALINE: Saturday; LINISPIELD (AW Finit: as Tuesday, L114-01. Ayr: Cub £16; Grandstand £8 (0APs half-proch. (1.0). Cheltenhaum: Cub £15 (ginnos. 16-24 (easy, £8); Tattersals £12; Foster's Enchosure £5. (1.10). Doncester: as Finday, (1.0).

Plant ablecad

Plan ahead

The National Hunt Festival at Chelterham from 12 to 14 March is the most important jump meeting in Britain's horse-racing calendar. The quality and closeness in calibre of the fields procloseness in calibre of the fields pro-vide exciting racing over the three days. The Gold Cup on the Thursday is the highlight of the meeting, offering the prospect of watching the big jumping One Man, who won the King George at Sandown in such style two weeks ago. Badges for the Members, Tattersalls and the Foster's enclosures will be avail-able on the day, but booking in advance brings savings in all the enclosures.

brings savings in all the enclosures. Hotel accommodation in the Chel-tenham area tends to be taken up quick-ly, though there is some space available at the too end of the market. Elsewhere accommodation is patchy. The Chel-tenham Tourist Information Centre can provide bed and breakfast in private houses within a 10-mile radius of the town and it is also possible to find beds in hotels and public houses further affeld. The tourist centres in Gloucester, Cirencester, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stroud and Tewkesbury can advise. National Hunt Festival, Cheltanham, 12-14

and Tewkesbury can advise.

National Hunt Festhal, Chelterham, 12-14 Atarch.

Chelterham, Racecourse, Presitury Park, Chelterham, Goucestershire GL50 48H.

(01242 513014).

Admission: Three-day Oub badge: £120 issles close 27 Innany, Oub badges for Members' erclosure £45 day from 4 March £50; Tattersals erclosure £16 from 4 March £20; Foster's erclosure £16 from 4 March £20; Edward £20 from 5 must be booked bedge 20 March and are £15 per person in Tattersals sidest required £20 £25 on Thustay. Parties of 20 or more must be booked bedge 20 March and are £15 per person in Tattersals and £7 in the Foster's Parking £5 daily. (Bookings 01242 £26226).

Catenage restaurats on course: Fortuner and Champon's 5 the have space on Tuesday and Mechesolay; Thustay fully booked: there is a usabing list for Gold Cup and the Glass-hunted for all three days. (01242 £22203).

The resecures is one mile north of the town, off A435. Elss fink from railway station feared by Bestol. Burningham and London Paddington), which is two miles from the Curse. Can should leave M4 at praction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 9 from the North, junction 15 or M5, junction 15 or M5, junction 16 for M6, junction 16 for M6, j

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

Badminton JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo) Selected 6B only: Men's alogies, second round: P Restructen (Den) tit D Hall (GB) 15-7 15-2; P-E Hoyer Larsen (Den) b: P Nroutes (GB) 15-11 15-9, Women's singles, second round: A Ghoyn (GB) tit M Borg (Swe) 11-8 11-1.

Basketbali

NBA: Atlanta 102 Indiana 93; New Jersey 97 Charlotte 93; Mismi 96 Washington 89; Mil-waukee 111 Philadelphia 100; Minnesota 98 Golden State 88; Orlando 113 Phoerix 95; Houston 120 Denver 112; New York 92 LA Cappers 81.

BiWards Minnesota Fats, the billiards player por-trayed in the film The Hustler, died yes-terday, a day before his birthday which, according to conflicting sources, was either his 83rd or 96th.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WORLD CUP SQUAD-Sutran Zacusari (cotd.), Saeed al-Saffar Ivoc-cotd. Vigoy Welva, Salaeem Ras, Sheated Affar. Sheated Dubamada. Gamesh Mykagamem, Syed Afhar Saeed, Mazhar Pulasten, Acarda Lou, Welhammed Aslam, Johannes Sameraselera, Imasz Abbasi Ivid., Ishan Afrikammed

Football

Derby yesterday revealed plans build a new 30,000 seater stadium on a site in Pride Park – despite starting work on redeveloping the Baseball Ground. AFRICAN NATIONS* CUP GROUP B (Bloom-tontain, SA); Algera 2 (Messabi 41, 63) Siena Leone 0. Leone O.
RAH HARP LAGER CLIP First Round: Waycote Celec
2 Cherry Orchard 1.
TRANSFERS: Gavin Workboys (toward) Darling-ran to Northerplanc, Sany O'Consor Hearts to Don-cesser; Mark Stalland (toward) Derby to Bradford

coser; Mark Stalland flowerth Derby to Bractord City.

WEDNESSAY'S LATE RESSLATS: FA Cap thirdround replaye Marchester City 5 Leveloter City 0
(Marchester City away to Coverny); Newcaste Ind.

2 Chelson 2 last, Chelsee with 42 cm parts. Chelsea
away to QFPIr; Notine Fortest 2 Stole 0 (Richard
harn Forest at forme to Oxford Unit); Steffield Unit.

1 Amend 0 (Shelfold United at home to Actor Willa); Stockport Co 2 Everant 5 (Everine st nome to
Port Valet; Totterharn 5 Heasterd 1 (Fotterharn at
home to Wokest; Warnheldon 1 Mactord 0 (Winbledon saver as Middlesboruggi); Wobeleac Hearts

1 Celus 2. Second Division: East Rife 0 Stafra,
2 Third Devision: Cast Rife to Stafra,
2 Third Devision: Cop sent-finate Corono Stafracram 0 (Geron sun 6 5 on persities), FA Cartaberg Vase fourth-round replays Setby 1 Trafford
1 fact, Gerat Willia Legger Premier Division:
Backned United 3 Elmon 0, Jewson Wessen. 3. Taird Divisions Lawrigston O Caledomein Insiste
2. Anglo-Jastina Cup spani-disast Genoe O Selerame O Genoe son 6-5 on persitioni, FA Cartisberg Vase founds onto 6-5 on persitioni, FA Cartisberg Vase founds onto 6-5 on persitioni, FA Cartisberg Vase founds on the Cartis of C

ce 3 Celta Vigo 0 (aggregate 4-1), Pertagasse Langue: Porto 2 Gil Vicente O. Priendly: Ander-lacht 2 Ajat 2.

The English Golf Union has been awarded £650,000 from the National Lottery towards the construction and development of the teaching academy at its Na-tional Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.

Can College Met.

MANAYSIAN OPEN (Kaste Lumpus) Leading Stat-round scarces: 66 S Fleach (US), 67 C Pens (US), 68 M Marret (Sing), 69 A Cejha (Ger), 70 G Jop-er (Jus); S Tatt (Jus); D Clark (N Mr); S Torance (Sco); R Brobio (Phi); Shoich Kawabara (Japan). (Scot); R Brobin (Phi); Shoich Rünesbara (Japan).
SOUTH AFRSCAN OPEN (Cape Town) Landing fresh-round scoves EA whilese stacked: 65 E.E. 66 I Leggart (Cart); D Howelf (Engl. 67 K Stone. 69 J-C Carnton (Fr); M Scholz; C Dasson (Engl.; P Blader, 70 N Gandy; R Kaplar; T Doddis (Namy; Ray Freshram (US); D James, 71, D W Besson; M Archer; R Goosen, D van Staden; S van der Merwe; M McNufly (Zm); P Jones; J McHenry (Rep Ir); M Genry; W Contrale.
BOB HOPE CLASSIC (Pelas Desert, Calif) Leanding first-hound scores (US unless stated): 68 M Brooke; B Karren. 67 M Calcaveccher; J D Blake; D Hahmmond, 69 J Haas, I, Rhiver; T Kim. F Allem (SA); M Springer, 69 P Goydos: J Delsing; C Paulsont; J Huston, A Bear; N Herike; J Surman; J Adams; S Jones, S Gumy; B Letthe; J Maggart, Sealeutant; 72 S Lyle (CS).

ice bockey Midd Buffalo O Petaburgh 1: Detroit 3 Colorado 2: NY Islanders 3 Hardford 8: Ottawa 0 Montreel 3: Tampa Bay 6 San Jose 4: Torona 2 Winnipeg 4: Cheaga 2 Washington 3: Deles 3 Edmonton 4: Anathern 1 Colgany 4.

Rugby Union

ENGLAND A (v France A, Jean Boole Stadium, Parls, today): TR 8 Stimpson (West Hartiepool): P A Hall (Instal), W J H Groemwood (Harteupra), P Mensels (Hartiepool): A Adobsys (Bestri A Mag (Brsol Uno), ACT Gossareall (Wassel); R Hardwicke (Covernty), P B T Greening (Goucester), D Garforth (Lecaster), G S Archer (Brstol), D Stames (Goucester), D Stomes (Soucester), B T Greening (Goucester), D Stames (Goucester), B T Greening (Brstol), R Jenishus (Harteupra), A J Diprose (Sustants, Capitolis, Index), C O'Shea (London Instit); S Masson (Dres), J Gallagher (Harteupra), S McCallegy): Delamphreys (London Instit), S McCallegy): D Hamphreys (London Instit), S Rolland (Stadonch

SPORTING DIGEST Biscirock Colege), D Tweed (Balymers), M O'Kel-ly, V Costella (both St Mary's College), E Miller (Leicester), A Foley (Shannon).

Colossion, A Folory (Sharron).
SCOTLAND A: S Lung (Henot's FP): C Glasgow (Henot's FP), B Shini (Mahnse), Pi Edicaton Con-con Scottaria, J Henry (Magoristra); S Walank (Heav-sc), G Armistrong (Newcostle, capt's M Brown (Metroce), G Ellis (Curre), B Shawart (Edinburgh Academost), M Norwal Shiring Courty, D Cronia (Bourges), P Walano (Newcastle), J Amos (Gala), B Bernelder (Heastel)

Rugby League

SKY SPORTS Lea Super Laague flatores (Pridoys 7-30, Saturdays 8.0 urless stated); Pri 29
Mar: Pars v Sheffield, Sat 30: Oldham v Wegan,
Huars 4 April: London Pars (to that, Pri 15: St.
Helens v Wegan, flo the). Mon 8: Leeds v St. Helens (to the), Pri 12: Wegan, v Brachtrd.
Sat 20: Castleford v Oldham, Pri 3: Mays
Sheffield v Castleford, Sat 4: Workington v Helfac, Pri 12: Pars v Leeds, Sat 12: London v St.
Helens, for the), Pri 17: Warmigton v St. Helens,
Sat 18: Workington v Wegan, Pri 24: Brachtrd v
Leeds, Sat 22: Workington v London, Pri 3: Castle
Zord v Warmigton, Sat 1, James Leeds v Wegan,
STONES CENTENARY CHAMPHONSHIP (Wednesday): Oldham 30 Warmigton 19; St. Helens
48: London Bronces 18: Second Dhylsion
(Wadnesday): Barrow 23 Chorley 21; Hursiet 24
Bramley 18; Legh 33 Cartele 22.

GUANGZHOU MASTERS (Chine): Final: 7 Dra-go (Maita) ot S Daws (Eng) 6-2.

Snow reports AUSTRIA FRANCE 12.1 12.1 12.1 clear clear ITALY 95% 95% 100% cies. cies. 12.1 11.1 SWITZERLAND NORTH AMERICA 100% 100% ANDORRA SCOTLAND 10% 7.1 Calmgoms.....bare ft. red โกซ์สาสารา ระบอต์ คลิ 5- ซึ่ง พระ กา

One problem that has to be ed to the Conference, or if the League, and the UniBond League of Wales, it must be our dealt with is the ruling made last Endsleigh League went part-League outfit, Colwyn Bay, choice to do so. We will not be year by Fifa, world football's time. Anything can happen... (So) 1-6 7-6 6-1 6-3; M Philippousses (Aus) to:
E Ran (so) 2-5 6-4 6-3 6-2; M Teabhatt (Aus) to:
P Yamacchi Mus) 6-3 6-4 7-5; J Semernii (Roth)
to D Nargeo (b) 1-6 5-7 6-2 7-6 6-1 1-8 Sevene
(RZ) bit B Macphine (US) 6-1 5-7 7-6 6-4; F Chore;
(So) bit F Deward (Bo) 2-6 7-5 6-3 6-2; M Hadad (Co) bit P Rather (Aus) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4-2-2;
mt; M Wastrington (US) bit A B BECIST (Sto) (Fit 6-4)
6-1 3-6 6-1; Y KAFELIMKOV (Rus) bit A Come;a
(So) 6-1 5-2 5-2; P SAMPYAS (US) bit M Joyce
(IS) 3-6 6-6 6-4; M Lasson (Swe) is B Bible
(Zim) 6-3 3-6 6-4 6-4; B BECIST (Rein bit 10hansson (Swe) 4-6 3-6 6-2 6-1 6-4; H Curry,
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(Fit K DATE (Lapan) 6-2 1-6 6-4; B Schett (Auhir P Sung-Hee (Stor) 6-4 6-3; N Danhirum
(Fit R Designmer (Rom) 6-4 6-3; B SCHU (IZMcCARTINY (Noth) bit Sh-Ting Wang (Ta) 6-3 3-6
6-3; L Richarous (Cr Rey) bit D R manurately (Mod)
7-6 4-6 7-5; E (Minoraseus (Rus) bit M PEPPCE
(Fit) 6-4 6-4; M Hags; (Swi) bit B Paulus (Aut)
6-1 6-4; A HUBER (Ger) bit A Carlsson (Swe) 6-1
6-2; R Grande (b) bit S Meer (Ger) 6-4 7-6; L
DAVENPORT (US) bit R Subbs (Aus) 7-6 6-3; A
COETZER (SA) to S Hack (Ger) 6-1 6-3; R Himaluleanny bit J Ponni (US)
(Leanny bit J Ponni (US) 6-3 4-6 6-2; H Subcou(Cr Rep) bit M Galythowida (Pol) 7-6 4-6 8-6; J
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£40,000 to be won

See Page 26



BRIAN MOORE: The man France is glad to see the back of Page 26

Defeat the only way forward for England

DEREK PRINGLE reports from East London

Another tour is over, and another series has been lost. Nothing surprising there. After all, the England team's ailments are well known and stem directly from the domestic game. Yet in spite of this incontrovertible fact, the usual autopsies will still be performed and the same old solutions proposed before being promptly ignored. As far as har-bingers of change are concerned, it is an excercise in futility akin to dissecting a headless cadaver, simply in order to ascertain

Most of us know that, when it

comes to sustaining the high lev- the same has not been apparent not from the fragmented crickel of performance needed to win a long series rather than just the odd game, England, their captain excepted, are consistently lacking in focus and application.

It is a weakness that has been symptomatic of England's cricket for some time, veiled by individuals such as Ian Botham, David Gower and Graham Gooch. Like Gooch before him, Michael Atherton has had to carry the batting to such an ex-tent that it leaves him with little to give to his team, especially when their morale and performance have needed to be raised. However, his ability to lead with his bat, particularly in Test matches, is something his team

in the current one-day series, where the sheer fatigue of a long tour has led to an indifference bordering on the gung-ho. An approach that must be tem-

pered if England are to come away with anything from the two remaining one dayer. The first, starting here this afternoon, the other in Port Elizabeth on Sunday. Asked what he thought of the one-day series, Atherton, still smarting over the lost Test match. said: "We came here to win the Test series. The one-dayers are a bit of fun at the end." It was a comment that ill-becomes his vision and style, and one that has rarely brought England success But Atherton's men are tired,

et they have played on this tour, but from the deep-seated fatigue caused by performing and travelling on a relentless year-round treadmill. Understandably, their cricket often acterises competitive sides with limited talent, and too often their cricket has fallen foul of

avoidable carelessness.

plays during a northern summer, unless they are touring England. Next winter England had been promised a Christmas at home. Instead they will play two away series with a three-day window between them - the first in Zimbabwe and the second in New Zealand, and instead of re-

No other team in the world

However, if the internationprogramme cannot be re-

duced, then the domestic one must be, although both would be greatly enhanced by bolder cuts than the cosmetic surgery occasionally applied to appease the swelling ranks of dissenters. Strangely, it is not a view shared by the England manag-

er, Raymond Illingworth, who, in craggy Yorkshireman mould, rebuffed the claim that modern tours are far more hectic and demanding than their more sedate pre-1970 counterparts.

"That's rubbish," he said yesterday. "I remember on the 1962/63 tour of Australia going on a journey from Brisbane to Sydney, then changing planes to crickening sources listened to for go to Perth, before finishing with it to be accepted." An attitude, a 200-mile coach journey up country. That were restful alright, especially when I was told by the team manager, Billy Griffith, that I couldn't have a sweet with me meal."

However, Illingworth is propared to lay a large part of the blame for England's lack of consistent quality on county doorsteps, blaming coaches as well as those resistant to change, in particular the competitive edge he feels two divisions would bring. "I've been pushing for that for

over 20 years," he said ruefully, patting down the few strands of hair that had survived the same period. "But there are just too many arguments from nonIllingworth thinks, that will also stymie a single national academy, should one ever be built.

And yet, the problem does not appear to lie at the lower levels of talent, as the recent exploits of the England Under-19 team has shown. But where other countries take and develop their talented individuals, such as South Africa have done with 18-year-old Paul Adams and 20year-old Jacques Kallis, the county system holds them back. rarely playing them in front of more experienced players, until it is too late and confidence and desire are at a low ebb.

The county stranglehold is a

difficult one to break. If England

Cup, crucial changes to the game's infrastructure will again be shelved, and a memo circulated that everything is still rosy in the garden. If English cricket is to change for the better, then Atherton's team must continue in Pakistan as they have

here, and lose at all costs. As far as today goes, Craig White opens with Mike Atherton, and Jack Russell has been given the chance of batting at No 4. Alec Stewart is unavailable because of his hand injury.

ENGLAGO SQUAD (Con-day internistional v South Attice, East London, Inday); M A Atthor-ton (Lancabine, copt). C White Province, R A Sentit Olampathely, R C Reseout (Concer-tashes), G A Helac (Moscateristee), M F Fak-brother (Lancabine), G P Thospe (Surray), D G Cork (Destyche), M M K (South (Wardschreit, D Googt) (Yorkshire), R K (Bingsworth (Murces-teryfrie), P J Martin (Lancabre).

Counties

condemn

Illingworth

Pierce unable to mount a defence

has always responded to, though

Tennis

Mary Pierce had what she called "one of those days" at the Australian Open yesterday. Perhaps the world No 4 should have included the word "another" in her description as her 6-4, 6-4 defeat by Elena Likhovtseva was not untypical of the year she has had since winning the title here.

Another victim of the underdogs was Kimiko Date. The fifth seed, who was a semi-finalist in this tournament two vears ago, was embarrassed in three sets by Mana Endo, a lower-ranked fellow Japanese.

At least the men's world No 4. Boris Becker, struck a blow for the established order by fending off the determined Thomas Johansson. The 20year-old Swede's heroics in going to the brink of victory in the five-set match split the Melhourne crowd into two raucous groups, who got behind the players like football fans.

Pierce, who won her first Grand Slam title by beating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in last year's final, was out of sorts in her match against Likhovtseva. who hails from Kazakhstan, fifth set. simply capitalised on Pierce's

No. 2887, Friday 19 January

Fishing at last, with hooks

help when cornered by yobbo (4.3) 11 Girl set on cooking un-

palatable stuff (7)

12 Is to take some action

ainst children (5)

cealing these combina-

14 Monster giving howls or

13 Limits of sexy nighties con- 24

unpleasant leers, primarily

to Curtailed informed study.

"Crime in one US state"

Phew! (5.8)

string of errors. "I never felt really comfortable on the court," Pierce said. "I felt like I was moving really heavily and just made a lot of mistakes."

Although she lost a marathon game on her service to let Pierce level at 2-2 in the second set, Likhovtseva broke back and held serve to pull 4-2 ahead. She wrapped up the match at 6-4 with an ace after earning three match points with forehand winners.

Pierce was at a loss to explain her poor form, but she has suffered similar lapses over the past 12 months. "It's not so nice but then, in tennis, you never know. It goes with the sport: you have some good days and bad days," the French-Canadian said.

Date, like Pierce, blamed her lacklustre 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 defeat on too many unforced mistakes but also said ber familiar rival played consistently well. While Pierce and Date made early exits, the 10th seed, Lind-

say Davenport, and the world No 9, Anke Huber, both had straight sets victories. Becker, Huber's fellow German, again lived dangerously, sliding to the brink of defeat against Johansson at two sets

Johansson, ranked 114th in

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

in association with

lose, was 2-2 and 40-0 up on Becker's serve in the third set with the No 4 seed seemingly at his mercy, but Becker, who was taken to five sets by Britain's Greg Rusedski in the first round, clawed his way back for a second time to win 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Becker, who thrives on theatre, said his spirits were lifted in the pivotal fifth game of the third set by the almost bysterical support for his opponent from the fanatical, blue-and-yellow face-painted Swedish fans. They were making me angry ... for me it's always good to be angry because I am really going for my shots and trying to bother the crowd even more," he said.

His revival roused his own fans and the fifth set was played in a rowdy atmosphere with boos and cheers for every point. Pete Sampras, the top seed, was happy with his form as he

booked a fourth-round match against the rising young Australian, Mark Philippoussis, with a four-set defeat of Michael Joyce, a fellow American. Andre Agassi had a less sat-isfying day. He was fined £1,000

for swearing during his easy sec-Spadea on Wednesday Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

DOWN

moment (3,2,4,4)

Shows how to handle prob-lem; to place rational alge-braic quantity's enough

(42,7)
15 Oil until carb is working (9)
16 We are going round in ship, showing exhaustion (9)
17 Odds on English client be-

21 Travel on horseback round good stretch of high ground

22 Foreign country supplies guard for tower, nothing less (5)

23 French girl at sea, forget-

coming upset and irritable



Mary Pierce sees her dream of retaining her championship die at Flinders Park yesterday

Rugby Union

ELEPTOS NE DE LA RESTRICTION DEL RESTRICTION DE LA RESTRICTION DEL RESTRICTION DE LA RESTRICTION DE LA

Roumat and Thierry Lacroix last turned out for France in the third place play-off in the World Cup when they beat England 19-9 in Pretoria. That victory ended a lengthy losing sequence for the French that began some eight years ago and last night Cabannes, at 31 France's oldest player on show tomorrow, in-

our list of victims."

They may think they have a

Over in Dublin, Scotland need to show that they can live without their former captain, Gavin Hastings, whose brother Scott yesterday passed a late fitness test on a knee injury, as they try to overcome a rejuvenated Ireland. To emerge with victory is a tall order for the new captain, Rob Wainwright, but as

In fact, Wainwright reckons Hastings' impressive record as captain has helped him. He said: "It is far nicer to follow an established captain than be the sixth captain in two years, which implies you are taking over a

Gary Rees, who has 22 caps for England on the flank, has resigned as coach of Nottingham to concentrate on playing for the

A year that began badly for Ray Illingworth is gradually getting worse as England's counties yesterday united in condemning him for his claims that not enough Test standard players are being produced from the ranks.

The counties, whose structure within the Britannic Assurance Championship has long been blamed for failing to provide the competitiveness necessary to groom future Test players, rejected the England team manager's assertion that they should "look at themselves".

Illingworth believes a talent drain is the major factor in England's Test and one-day in-ternational defeats in South Africa, saying: "The bottom line is that we are at a pretty low ebb for talent at the moment in England. The counties are just not producing young players of the calibre of, say, Shaun Pollock."

But the former England batsman Dennis Amiss, now Warwickshire's chief executive, insisted: "It's disappointing to hear comments like that because we don't feel we could be doing

more to produce good cricketers for Warwickshire and England." Illingworth found little support either at Lancashire, who provided captain Michael Atherton, Peter Martin, John Crawley, Mike Watkinson, Neil

for England duty this winter. Geoff Ogden, the chairman of Lancashire's cricket committee, said: "You only have to look at the likes of Michael Atherton and John Crawley, to see where

our priorities lie."
The former England paceman Graham Dilley, now the bowling coach at Surrey, stressed: "If Ray Illingworth feels like that, I would have thought he is in the ideal position to do something Photograph: Allsport about it."

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France sense revenge

DAVID LLEWELLYN

France have started psyching themselves up for tomorrow's Five Nations opener against England at Parc des Princes with a rebel yell. The three players, banned for two months after staying on in South Africa following last summer's World

Cup, are all fired up for the game. Laurent Cabannes, Olivier No socks for Arry, just a loop of rope (5) Entrances and annoys, missing runs (5) Well-prepared newspaper's editor conceals one (9) Local resident in Edinburgh upset, losing old penny and gaining nothing (9)
There'll be places for views aired on the radio (5)
Exhausted, having got personal best at the optimum

Roumat, the former captain. reminded everyone that this has been a good season for France when he said: "The team has beaten the All Blacks, now we have to add England to

distinct psychological edge but their last victory in the Five Nations over any Will Carling team was back in 1988.

sisted: "There is a time for a doctor of medicine he is prob-

everything. This is the time to beat the English." ably best qualified to prove there is life after Gavin.

rather more shaky ship."

Ireland will have been lifted

with the news that their lock Neil Francis, the outside-half, Eric Elwood, and Bath's wing, Simon Geoghegan, are all fit for the game. For Scotland, Craig Chalmers. the outside-half, confined to the bench, has a hand injury that is causing some concern.

second division strugglers.

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Millwall called to Serbs' den

CLIVE WHITE

Millwall, the sometime scourge of English football, have been invited by the Bosnian Serbs. until recently the pariahs of in-ternational diplomacy, to play a friendly match in Banja Luka. The game is being staged to celebrate Bosnia's return to the international fold following the end of the war in the former Yu-

The Bosnian Serbs are keen to renew sporting ties around the the Serbs. world and are using an English agency, First Artists Corporation, to help them do so.

Having decided to invite an English club to play in Banja Luka, the Bosnian Serb football authorities were advised that it might be too ambitious to seek a Premiership club. They then the notorious military com- ly from business abroad.

checked the most recent Eng- mander, General Ratko Mladic, lish newspaper in their possession - an October edition - and chose Miliwall because they were then top of the First Division. The London club have since slipped to mid-table.

The fact that their prospective opponents are a club whose supporters rejoice in the slogan "No one likes us, we don't care" is purely coincidental, as is the fact that Millwall have recently signed two players from Russia, traditional close allies of

Millwall to Bosnia to help with the peace process," Jon Smith, of First Artists, said last night. Banja Luka was at the centre of the Yugoslav war. The biggest town in the Serb-held part of Bosnia, it was the power base of Carthy, when he returns short-

and was the scene of some of the worst ethnic deansing during the war. Prior to the war, 50 per cent of the Banja Luka population were Muslims and Croats. Now only Serbs live there. Sports stadiums were the

scene of some of the worst atrocities in the war (as they have been in other conflicts around the world), but the ground that the Bosnian Serbs have in mind was not one of them. Millwall, who would be playing against Borac, a club side, are

"We'd be delighted to take understood to have reacted positively to the invitation to play the match, hopefully within the next four weeks, fixtures permitting. Peter Meade, the chairman, said that he would discuss the idea with his manager, Mick Mc-

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18 Where one goes to be ex-

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